

THE GATEWAY

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Students to vote on SU health plan

CAITLIN CRAWSHAW
News Editor

The SU has revived attempts to provide a health plan to undergraduate students after two failed referenda in the mid-'90s.

"This is the third swing at the bat," explained Duncan Taylor, Students' Union vice-president (student life).

In 1996 and 1997, referenda were held to determine if students were interested in a healthcare plan they could buy into as part of their SU fees.

But neither referendum produced a health plan. In 1996, the referendum was thrown out due to a bylaw infraction, and the following year, students voted down the SU's proposal.

"As students, we all struggle in different ways to afford our education, and the last thing students need to deal with is where their [health] coverage is going to come from."

JORDAN BLATZ,
SU PRESIDENT

The idea for an undergraduate health plan re-emerged during last spring's SU Executive election when two candidates included the concept in their platform. However, neither candidate was elected.

Taylor has resurrected the idea in recent months, and has worked with other members of the Executive to find a provider that might meet the needs of students.

This year, a referendum will be held in the spring during the SU election to determine whether students want to pay for a health plan they can opt out of if they are covered by their parents' health plans or if they wish to find coverage elsewhere.

According to Taylor, members of the SU Executive spent much of the winter break negotiating a deal with studentcare.net/works, a health-insurance provider that made the strongest proposal to the SU.

"Compared to what other schools go, compared to the services provided, this is a great deal," said Taylor.

PLEASE SEE HEALTH PLAN • PAGE 3



I LOVE LOIS Terry Danyluk, coach of the Bears volleyball team, signs a register in Lieutenant-Governor Lois Hole's memory on Tuesday.

LEANNIE FONG

Students' Union, University launch 24-hour SUB pilot project

COSANNA PRESTON
Senior News Editor

Night owls will no longer be forced to pack up their books and vacate campus at midnight. A 24-hour study space has been created to help accommodate students' late-night study habits.

The University and the Students' Union have struck up a partnership in which they will use SUB as a space for lingering students. The extended hours launched at the beginning of the winter term and will run as a pilot project until the end of April.

"There was a recognition that a lot of undergraduate students don't have access to 24-hour study space and SUB was recognized as being a good option, as was CAB," said SU Vice-President (Academic) Lisa McLaughlin of a study conducted by the U of A's department of planning and infrastructure.

She noted that there are few places on campus with 24-hour facilities, and that those spaces aren't usually public.

The idea for the 24-hour space was raised in last year's SU election campaign by Adam Cook, a presidential candidate, but his idea came under fire because the SU could not cover the utility costs to keep SUB open 24/7.

For the pilot project, the University has agreed to cover the vast majority of the costs, and the program will be evaluated at the end of term. If the space is being used effectively, the SU and the University will consider making SUB a permanent 24-hour space.

"There was a recognition that a lot of undergraduate students don't have access to 24-hour study space and SUB was recognized as being a good option, as was CAB."

LISA MCLAUGHLIN,
SU VICE-PRESIDENT (ACADEMIC)

"[The University is] paying the majority of the costs. They are putting in over \$100 000 [and] the SU is putting in \$2500," said McLaughlin.

"There was talk of opening Cram Dunk 24 hours as well, but it was felt that it wouldn't be profitable at all. So

we thought we would put \$2500 in for now. At this point of the year it's difficult to find the funds."

Dr Bill Connor, dean of students, joined the project in December after the SU made a "persuasive case" to a panel of U of A administrators. Connor supported the creation of the space and hoped the pilot project would provide data to budget for coming years.

"What we are going to do is have some spot checks week by week by the Students' Union staff to get a sense as to whether [student numbers] trail off or not," said Connor.

"What we are really doing in the pilot project is seeing if we can make it work and make it attractive to students. We want to know if there is sufficient demand to justify it, which we suspect, but we want to prove it to ourselves and second, whether given sufficient demand, if there is some way we can do it which will make it work better, and fine tune it."

The SU plans to conduct surveys with the students using the space in order to improve the facilities. Improvements could include keeping Cram Dunk open 24 hours year-round instead of restricting the extended hours to exam time.

Dreams may alter memories: researcher

KAILA SIMONEAU
News Writer

Getting the most out of your dreams may no longer require a visit to your local soothsayer. According to University of Alberta psychologist Dr Don Kuiken, some of your dreams may, in and of themselves, provide the perfect opportunity for personal reflection and self-understanding.

In a recent study, Kuiken, along with several of his colleagues, reviewed the dream journals of nearly 500 individuals who recorded their dreams over the course of a week. The psychologists found evidence that supports the common day residue theory, in which emotional events of the day work their way into dreams that night. But they also found evidence of something else.

"Our research presented a rather strikingly different observation," explained Kuiken.

PLEASE SEE DREAMS • PAGE 3

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6 Hey there, slugger: want to know how get rich? Well, one way is to find Jesus—specifically, find Jesus on all your fave foods. Derek Grebenksi will tell you how today in Opinion.

From the archives

Controversy wasn't in short supply when Dr Henry Morgentaler argued for the legalization of abortion at a pro-choice meeting in SUB. Morgentaler argued for the availability of abortions in Canada, and greater rights for women. According to Morgentaler, most anti-abortionists base their views on religious dogma that not all Canadians subscribe to. Morgentaler defended his decision not to stop performing abortions and informed the crowd that, "God told me to help women."

1985

Ne Tuesday Past

The Gateway will not be publishing next Tuesday, as we will be surrounding ourselves with newspaper dorks of the highest calibre at the national Canadian University Press conference.



14 The Pandas hockey team returns home this weekend, after two months on the road, to begin the last stretch for a range portion of the current roster who will graduate after this season.

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colophon

The Gateway is created using Macintosh computers, Unisys PowerPC 1000 flatbed scanners, and a Nikon Super CoolScan optical film scanner. Adobe InDesign is used for layout. Adobe Illustrator is used for vector images, while Adobe Photoshop is used for raster images. Adobe Acrobat is used to create PDF files which are burned directly to plates to be mounted on the printing press. Text is set in a variety of sizes, styles, and weights of Frisco, Kepler, Joanna, and Avenir. The Gateway's sister paper is the Mirror. The Gateway's games of choice are Metal Gear Solid 3 and Metal Gear Prime 2.

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YOU CAN TAKE THOSE MOVES TO THE BANK—THE MONEY BANK Performers at Monday's Hip-4-Hope help raise money for Southeast Asia's tsunami victims.

Students organize hip-hop concert to raise money for tsunami victims

JIFFREY STERR
News Writer

SUB was livelier than usual over the lunch hour this Monday, as local hip-hop artists took the stage to raise funds for tsunami victims.

Organized by the South East Asian Students' Association (SEASA), Hip-4-Hope featured local hip-hop performers the Fly Girls, Running Water, and Expressive Elements. The performance raised funds for the Red Cross.

SEASA President Catherine Lee said she was pleased with the outcome of the fundraiser.

"It wasn't hard at all to get performers to come out. Everybody was helpful. We had a lot of members who did banners or displays. I'm really grateful for that," she said.

But this wasn't SEASA's only response to the tsunami disaster that occurred on Dec. 26: during

the first week of the semester, they teamed up with both the Indian and Thai students' associations to help to establish donation booths in Hub Mall, SUB, and CAB.

"It doesn't matter how big or small a donation is, when you see a disaster of this scope."

GINETTE BENOIT,
CANADIAN RED CROSS

In fact, last week's consolidated efforts alone generated between \$3800 and \$4000, not including the money donated during Monday's fundraiser.

Fortunately, none of the members of SEASA, who have roots primarily in Indonesia and Malaysia, have relatives or friends in areas immediately affected

by the tsunami, Lee explained.

But she noted that some members, including herself, do have several family members who live in cities close to devastated areas, and so the disaster hit close to home. Many of SEASA's members spent a good deal of time calling family and friends over the holidays. But beyond some members' personal attachments to the region, Lee feels the group has an obligation to reach out.

"I think it's important to help the homeless and the children. We have a specific objective to help fix and build [affected regions]."

Eliza Tang, vice-president (social) of SEASA, was shaken when she heard the news. She speculated that people in distressed countries would appreciate events like Hip-4-Hope.

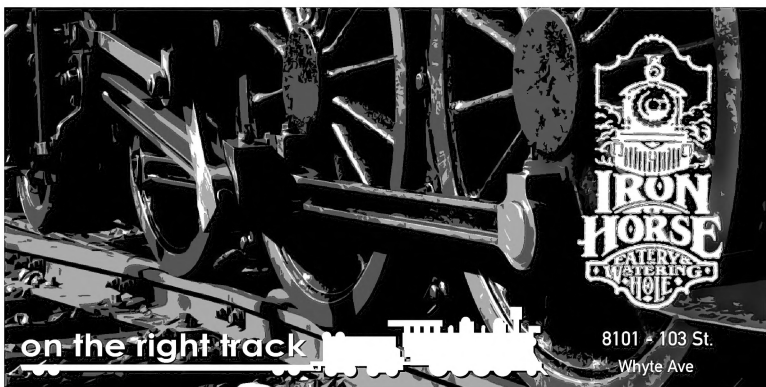
"I think the people in Asia will be happy because we're all helping out and working together. A little bit of

help means a lot. A little bit of everything adds up to a lot," she explained.

Ginette Benoit, the central and northern Alberta communications coordinator for the Canadian Red Cross, said that as of 14 January, the organization had received \$111.6 million in donations from individuals and corporations nationally. In Edmonton, as of 17 January, donations had reached almost \$2.4 million. All funds donated to the Canadian Red Cross for tsunami relief are transferred to the International Committee of the Red Cross.

"It doesn't matter how big or small a donation is when you see a disaster of this scope," Benoit said.

"We've seen in the local community that the response has come from all different sectors and has been great. To the Red Cross, this is a strong testament to the generosity of people here in Alberta."



8101 • 103 St.
Whyte Ave

STREETERS

Compiled and photographed
by Hanna Nash and Chloé Fedio

This spring,
undergraduate students
will vote for an optional
health plan.

Do you think students
need an SU health plan?



Kelly Knetenian
Science II

It's a good service for people that don't have the opportunity to get healthcare from another place and that aren't under their parents.



Kyle Kuffler
Science II

I have no real use for it, although I'm sure that a lot of other people do. I'm [concerned] under my parents' healthcare, so it doesn't really help me.



Kyle Anderson
Education III

I think that it'd be a good idea for some students. But other students wouldn't need it. Other students may not need the service, but as an option it'd be a good thing.



Stephanie Ozsi
Business III

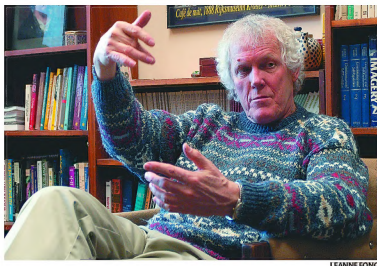
I think that student healthcare is a good idea. I'm already covered under another health plan, so I don't think that I'd use it.

Correction

In the 18 January issue of the Gateway, it was incorrectly reported that the University of Alberta administration has approved a maximum tuition increase 24 years in a row. While tuition has been increased every year for the last 24, it has not always been by the maximum allowable amount.

In the same issue, it was stated that the Board of Governors voted unanimously in support of the tuition hike when, in fact, SU President Jordan Blatz and SU BoG Representative Roman Kotovych voted against the increase.

The Gateway apologizes for the errors.



DREAM WARRIOR Don Kuiken explains the role dreams play in our memories.

Dream phenomenon most common in women

DREAMS • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"Not only is there ... the so-called day-residue effect, but we also found that six or seven days after that particular event, there were dreams which reflected it significantly. In other words, there is the day-residue effect, which is the immediate incorporation of the event into their dream, and then there is what we call the dream lag effect, which is the incorporation of the event [several nights later]."

However, the dream-lag effect, Kuiken discovered, is not evident in every individual. Kuiken found that the effect occurred more often in women than in men, but due to an uneven number of men and women participating in the study, further research will have to be completed before confirming this theory.

Kuiken also found that the dream-lag effect was more pronounced in people who described their dreams as an opportunity for self-understanding.

"It's one indication that this dream-lag effect is occurring in the minds of dreamers whose dreams seem to have for them some kind of constructive effect," said Kuiken.

According to Kuiken, a growing web of dream psychologists are beginning to suggest that certain dreams provide an opportunity for the development of an individual's memories. These dreams, which often include strong

emotions of grief, loss, or anxiety, are known as constructive dreams, as they seem to have an impact on the waking life of an individual. Kuiken believes that evidence of the dream-lag effect supports the theory of constructive dreams.

"There is one reason for suggesting that this dream-lag effect had something to do with the manner in which dreams seem to reformulate our memories," he said.

"The dreams on the sixth and seventh days, after a particular event—typically about relationships—were already somehow involved in the reformulation of their memories about the particular event."

Generally, he explained, the mood of the dreams changed from negative to positive as the week progressed.

While Kuiken is excited about recent findings regarding the dream-lag effect and what it might reveal about constructive dreams, he cannot predict what beneficial procedures may result from further research. As of right now, Kuiken feels that we can only sit back and watch as findings unfold.

"I think we know very little about those possibilities yet. I think that may turn out to be the primary motivation for examining more closely dreams that have this constructive effect and allow reformulation."

Need for U of A health plan has 'long been there': Blatz

HEALTH PLAN • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The plan would cost each student \$144.52 per year, and would provide services including coverage of 80 per cent of the full cost of prescription drugs, one eye exam every 24 months and \$75 for eyeglasses or contacts every 24 months, laser eye surgery up to \$150, out of province/country emergency medical costs, and the cost of tutorial assistance for students with extended absences from class due to illness up to \$2000 per year.

Currently, the vast majority of Canadian universities and colleges offer health plans to their undergraduate students, and in this respect the U of A has lagged behind other institutions.

"The need has long been there," said SU President Jordan Blatz.

"As students we all struggle in different ways to afford our education, and the last thing students need to deal with is where their [health] coverage is going to come from."

According to Taylor, it is the responsibility of the SU to look out for the interests of students.

"If it's the SU's job to look after students and make sure no one is fall-

ing through the cracks," he explained. The SU tries to provide students with services and assistance that the U of A administration or the Alberta government fail to offer, Taylor added.

"I think it's the SU's job to look after students and make sure no one is falling through the cracks."

DUNCAN TAYLOR,
SU VP (STUDENT LIFE)

Currently, the SU Executive has signed a tentative contract with Studentcare.net/works. Council must now vote on a referendum question before a referendum can be officially ordered.

Both Taylor and Blatz are optimistic about the referendum, but Taylor stressed that if students vote against it, the idea may fade away again.

"If it fails at this referendum, the idea is probably going to lie dormant for a while."

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Strongbow Pints - \$4.25
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Boston student tracking starts next month

Ordinance will require universities to file students' info with city

AHMED SHIHAB-ELBIN
The Daily Free Press

BOSTON (CUP)—Despite opposition from Boston students, the University Accountability Ordinance, requiring postsecondary schools to submit student names and addresses to city officials, will take effect 15 February, 2005.

The ordinance will require all universities in Boston to file a letter with the City Clerk's Office stating the number of enrolled students living on and off campus, as well as their addresses, within 45 days of the start of each semester.

City councilors Michael Ross and Jerry McDermott, who sponsored the ordinance, explained that it is a direct response to local students' disorderly behaviour following the New England Patriots' Super Bowl victory and the Boston Red Sox's World Series win. He said that nearly 100 arrests had occurred since the beginning of September.

"The legislation will track off-campus students ... and deal with rowdy, often intoxicated, hooligans in an expeditious manner," McDermott said.

Boston University, Emerson College and Northeastern University students

have attended hearings during the past two months at City Hall to stop what they said was an invasion of their privacy.

But the councilors explained the ordinance would protect the students from themselves.

"We are sending a clear message," McDermott said.

"I am positive that universities in the city of Boston will now clamp down on rowdy off-campus student behaviour."

The councilors hope the new ordinance will help city officials determine where additional student housing is needed to transfer more students into residences on their respective campuses.

"We met with students from BU, Northeastern, Emerson and other schools, and they said they understood what we were trying to do but they felt their civil liberties were at stake," Ross said.

"And so we reached a compromise by eliminating the mandate to reveal off-campus student addresses. The ordinance has been passed by the Council and signed by the mayor and now it is up to universities to tell the city they have been compliant by notifying the Clerk's Office."

Boston University officials said they

are concerned with protecting the privacy of their students and have previously sided with students who strongly protested the ordinance.

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act protects the privacy of education records.

Because of this, many university and college officials believe they have a legal and moral responsibility to protect the privacy of their students' information.

The president of Northeastern's student government, Bill Durkin, who attended meetings with both McDermott and Ross, said he believes there will be no complications because students and city councilors reached a compromise.

"We sat down with councilors Ross and McDermott, and other students as well, and I feel we reached a middle ground," Durkin said.

"I don't expect there to be any protests or problems with implementing the ordinance since it was changed."

Ross agreed that there would be fewer complaints because of the ordinance.

"We can't please everyone, but we have broad base support," he said.

"It's going to help students. A lot of students are being victimized by landlords and paying through the nose."

Journal aims to bring Arab, Jewish readers together

AARON WENNER
The McGill Daily

MONTREAL (CUP)—Arab and Jewish McGill University students have been working together on a new literary initiative offering young Canadians a place to share their thoughts and feelings on the decades-old Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Yalla, which in Arabic means "come together," addresses the common ground shared by two sides of the Middle East conflict. The 200-page journal is comprised primarily of short stories, essays and poetry, but also includes drawings and photographs.

"Anything that could convey a sense of feeling was welcomed," said editor Adam Allouba.

Yalla was inspired by a journal published in 2003 called *Gam Yachad*. While this journal also focused on changing attitudes about the Arab-Israeli conflict, it specifically targeted the Jewish community. Allouba stressed Yalla's content spans the religious and cultural divide.

"Our goal was to get people to really listen to what the other side has to say. There's a lot of dehumanizing going

on," said Allouba.

Three Jewish and three Arab youth—four of them past or present McGill students—edited the project. To ensure a balanced perspective, one Jewish editor and one Arab editor reviewed each submission before suggesting any changes.

"Our goal was to get people to really listen to what the other side has to say. There's a lot of dehumanizing going on."

ADAM ALLOUBA,
EDITOR OF YALLA

Though many of the editors and contributors are in university, Yalla is not specifically targeted at students, according to Marc Abergel, vice-president of Israel Affairs and Jewish advocacy at Montréal Hill. Instead, it aims to create a more positive dialogue between groups often involved in nasty disputes.

Funding for professorship raises questions at SFU

NICOLE VANDERKYST
The Peak

BURNABY, BC (CUP)—Although Simon Fraser University announced the creation of a corporately funded professorship three months ago, the school's Senate only approved the position 10 January, 2005, prompting concerns that the administration may have violated policy by awarding the professorship before it was even established.

In October 2004, the Royal Bank of Canada's RBC Foundation donated \$600 000 to establish the RBC Professorship in Technology and Innovation at the University's new Segal Graduate School of Business, due to open this September.

In addition to postings on several business faculty websites, the University's media and public relations department announced in two separate press releases that Ernie Love, dean of business administration, had already been awarded the professorship.

But, according to the University's policy, the establishment of professorships is subject to the approval of both the Senate and the Board of Governors, neither of which had seen any documentation for the position before it was announced or awarded to Love.

At the Senate meeting, John Waterhouse, Simon Fraser University's vice-president (academic), said the press releases and website announcements were made in error, and no one had been named to the position.

Waterhouse maintained the errors don't point to a circumvention of the University's policies. Rather, he said they show a lack of care on the part of whoever prematurely announced the professorship.

But Chris Giacomantonio, student senator and Simon Fraser Student Society president, was not convinced.

"This is not an oversight. It can't be an oversight. It can't be a mistake that got blown out of proportion," he said.

"It was something that they've been

promoting on behalf of, in all likelihood, their corporate donor. I mean, otherwise, why not wait until it's actually approved?"

Ethical and conflict-of-interest concerns have also been raised about Love's participation in negotiations over the professorship's terms of reference with the donor.

Love maintained his involvement with a University advancement committee led to his interaction with the RBC, and that he did not approach the donor with personal recommendations for the professorship.

A sticking point in the terms of reference for the professorship is a clause stating the position is "normally" to be held by the dean of the business administration faculty. This has led some Senate members to wonder to what extent the RBC can influence the University's appointments to the professorship.

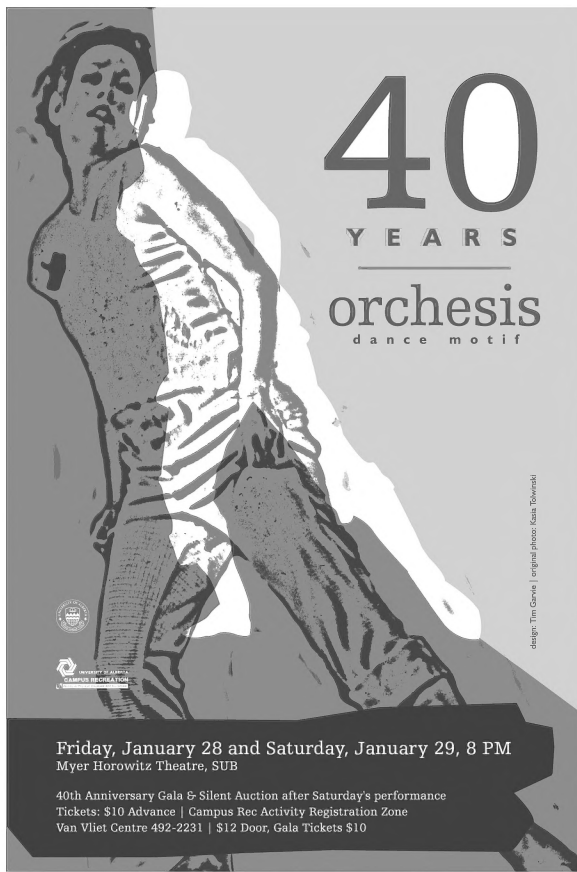
"Normally" is inserted there to allow for the fact that it's possible that the dean of business administration in the future may not have interest in this area," Waterhouse said at the meeting.

Both Waterhouse and Love maintained the University has full control over the professorship's endowment and to whom it is awarded.

But Giacomantonio asserted the University's freedom to determine its own affairs has been compromised, and the RBC has been allowed to direct the University's appointments to the professorship.

"The biggest problem is that [the University] made it clear that the Royal Bank had asked them to put the language in there; the Royal Bank wanted it to be held by the dean, and their compromise was to put the term 'normally' in there," Giacomantonio said.

Though there are many corporately funded professorships at SFU, the RBC professorship is only the second to be named after a corporate sponsor. The first was the Weyerhaeuser Professorship in Change Management, established in March 2003.



40 YEARS

orchesis

dance motif

design: Tim Gervin | original photos: Katie Townsend

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OPINION

opinion@gateway.ualberta.ca • Thursday, 20 January, 2005

Conservatives need to define themselves or risk redundancy

STEPHEN HARPER HAS GONE on record stating that his party has room for separate views on divisive issues. This came up when some Québécois members of his party came in on favour of same-sex marriage and softened marijuana laws. They did this to shore up support in areas that feel burned by Liberals and uncomfortable with the Bloc. Harper, whip in hand, decided it was much better to be diplomatic. My question is, why? The Conservative party has had a hard enough time defining itself without Harper's dithering. Instead of making a show about party openness, Harper and the Conservatives need to make a choice.

On the one hand, they could be the socially conservative party they seem to want to be. They would lose their left-leaning fringe supporters and most of the hangers-on from the old PC Party to the Liberals, but would stick to their ideals. This would be a bold move, as their support would probably fall for a strong core and the party would become an NDP for the right, with the ability to push socially conservative views but never the power to make them into laws.

On the other hand, they could compromise and become a morally nebulous party that has a strong, fiscally conservative stance. They would move from position to position, garnering support wherever they could, while trying to get elected with whatever votes they could get. Unfortunately, we already have a party like this—the Liberals.

Harper's inability to crack the whip on major issues is clearly supposed to distance him from the perceived authoritarianism of the Liberal leadership on controversial issues. However, by diluting his party's stance he is sending the message that the Conservatives are a wishy-washy party that will change their opinions and policies at the drop of a hat to get more votes—something the Liberals are known for.

If the Conservatives are going to be a fiscally conservative party with little or no social stance on issues, they're redundant. We already have the Liberals. And if the Conservatives are driving a social agenda behind an image of fiscal conservatism and social moderation, well, that's just underhanded and sneaky. Which is why I wish Harper would steer his party towards being open about its social stances and try to keep his members in line.

Unfortunately, I'm almost sure that Harper and the Conservatives won't move in that direction when their policy convention comes up in March. It's almost impossible to push through a plan which would make your party lose votes, and Harper and company aren't stupid—they know they would lose support if they came out with a strong right-wing social agenda.

So I guess we'll just be stuck with wishy-washy Conservatives, who you could almost believe hate the Liberals if they didn't want to be them so much.

DANIEL KASZOR
Production Editor

Lois Hole isn't Remembrance Day

I'VE BEEN KNOWN TO lose track of time quite frequently. But on my trip to campus the other day, I saw that the majority of ETS buses were flashing the phrase "Lest we forget" on their destination bars and I was nearly convinced that I'd travelled back to 11 November. Fortunately for my understanding of modern physics, I hadn't actually travelled back in time; rather, it seems the ETS simply decided to display the message to commemorate the late Lois Hole, whose memorial service was held that morning.

Now, Lois Hole was, by all accounts, a very nice person who did many wonderful things. Her passing was a great loss, and Tuesday's memorial service warranted all the attention it got—even on ETS buses. But using a phrase normally reserved for memorials for fallen soldiers was inappropriate. They should have taken the time to program a new message: perhaps a simple but appropriate, "Goodbye Lois."

JAKE TROUGHTON
Sports Editor

LETTERS

Berry's arguments don't make sense

David Berry's article "Allah is clearly the one true God" (18 January) was both surprising and shocking. Aside from the fact that David is so obviously an Islamic scholar and therefore able to tell us what Allah is or isn't, his case doesn't make any sense.

Berry claims that only one predominantly Muslim country was hit—Indonesia—but ignores the fact that Indonesia was the worst hit as well. Nor does he ask why Allah would kill hundreds of thousands of Muslims just to get at hundreds of unbelievers? Why not set off one of his patented infidel-annihilating tsunamis off the west coast of America, or why not an earthquake in Washington, DC, New York or even Tel Aviv?

Speaking of Tel Aviv, what is the deal with Israel? If Allah is as Mr Berry describes, why is Israel still around? For over 50 years Israel has been a sore issue for Muslims, and where was Allah? It seems that if anyone has been doing any smiting, then it has been the Israelis in their numerous wars of self-preservation. As for the date, *Boxing Day*, did Allah get the day wrong or was he trying to get all the people going to the *Boxing Day* sales? 26 December means nothing. The Black Death: a disease that spread from Asia where it killed millions, but hey, I'm sure those unbelievers had it coming, eh? And the World Wars? One word: irrelevant. The Middle East was not in the war because no one wanted it. Besides, perhaps Mr Berry should reach up about the desert campaign that reached Egypt.

Maybe Mr Berry is really and willfully bow before a vengeful and callous murdering deity, but I'd rather believe in the reasonable and logical case. The Black Death was a disease, Iraq and the Crusades were wars and the tsunami was a tsunami. Even most Islamic extremists aren't going as far as David Berry.

ALEX GORDON
Engineering I

Islam not what Berry makes it out to be

I'm not entirely sure whether David Berry's latest article "Allah is the one true God," (18 January) was satirical or sincere, but I feel there are some inconsistencies in how he portrays Islam's view of the deity.

Firstly, contrary to the idea of God being wrathful, vengeful, and bent on proving his divinity, even if he has to kill off hundreds of thousands of people to do so, Islam espouses the idea of God as being gracious and merciful before all else. If you doubt this, simply look at the first words in the Quran—it begins "In the name of Allah, the most gracious, the most merciful."

Secondly, contrary to Berry's presentation, tragedies are primarily viewed in Islam as a test. Firstly for those afflicted, to see if they will be patient, and secondly upon those around the afflicted, to see whether they will sacrifice and help their fellow beings, or walk away and let them "take care of themselves."



As such, believers are encouraged to help those in distress, be they Muslims or non-Muslims. I would point to Muslim nations donating grain to European nations during the famine of the early 19th century as an example Islam's view of a proper bystander's response to tragedy.

Lastly, Berry's implication that Islam views God as having everyone—especially practitioners of other faiths—except for the Muslims, is inaccurate; to turn again to the Quran: "And verily, Allah does not wish to oppress mankind."

ZACHARIA AL-KHATIB
Arts I

You should vandalize Zoom Media ads

I agree with one of Bryce Kustra's comments on vandalism, namely his plea for people to not vandalize campus ("Don't vandalize Zoom Media ads," Letters, 18 January). I believe it is important to show respect for the institution we are attending and the services it provides us.

However, I would like to point out that the Zoom Media bathroom ads do not qualify as our campus, nor do they provide a helpful or requested service. The ads are hanging on rented University wall space, but the frames and ads are Zoom Media's. They indiscreetly force a urine urinal into a no-win situation: stare at his junk and the magical vista or the urinal beyond, since upon his neighbor's competition, close his eyes and possibly pee on himself, or stare at unsolicited advertising shoved in front of his face. Grudgingly, I choose the latter and yearn for the days when people who see me only as a market did not constantly inundate me with ads for garbage I don't need.

While I don't yet participate in the vandalism that Bryce speaks of, thanks to his letter I am now seriously considering picking up a venerable Magnum 44 marker myself. It fills me with glee to know that others are beginning to stand up for themselves in the face of increasingly invasive and shameless marketing. While I agree with Bryce that the best way would be to attempt to get the SU to have the ads removed altogether, my faith in the SU as an effective lobby group is basically next to nothing—I think a nod towards tuition increases every year for the past 24 years

proves my point.

Perhaps together we can make Zoom Media's advertising tactic economically unfeasible on campus, or maybe even dissuade prospective clients from choosing this form of marketing. If nothing else, I think it is a proactive and effective form of protest for those who have had enough of invasive ads. Time to go buy a marker.

PAUL KNYTL
Civil Engineering III

SU should shift its fight to something other than tuition

This letter is in response to Jordan Blatz's attitude in previous issues of the Gateway I have been attending the University of Alberta for three years now and every subsequent year my views about the Students' Union President have been going downhill from the start.

My first year at this once fine institution was made interesting and exciting by SU President Mike Hudema; Hudema was very active in his role of leading the students. By this time two years ago, Hudema was on the news numerous times, and was effective in bringing up the issue of rising tuition to the media. I think I can count the number of times I have seen Blatz on the news with one finger.

In the past 24 years, tuition has been going up whether the students like it or not. I predict that it will yet again rise every year for the next 24 years. Maybe the SU should shift their focus to other ways of saving students' money. For example, in my first year I spent about \$1200 on textbooks for ten courses.

This semester alone my textbooks cost \$304.59, and \$330. Even the cashier at the bookstore couldn't believe that last one. Thank heavens that two of my classes don't use a textbook. Perhaps the SU could fight to lower the cost of textbooks, or maybe provide subsidies to students.

Bear in mind that I'm sympathetic to the international differential fee increase, but a 575 per cent general increase only amounts to about \$250. When I am already paying \$5000, the increase means I will have to work a little harder during the summer. But, if I start school in fall and realize that my textbooks amount to another \$2000, I will have

to go without and further jeopardize the quality of my education.

So, when it comes to the election later on in the term, think back to this letter and base your decisions on which candidates have the best chance at lowering the costs of education, not which one has the dreamiest eyes.

DEAN SEREDA
Conservation Biology III

Surprisingly, Transformer blovjob probably not social commentary

I am glad to see a fellow engineer defending the social commentary contained in the sexually explicit cartoon featuring two transformers ("Transformer blovjob didn't go far enough," Letters, 18 January). As Kyle Gillis knows, this wasn't a puerile attempt to shock students; this was a skillful lampooning of modern institutions. I was so pleased with the cartoon that I thought I would send you some ideas for future cartoons.

First, a really big dick labelled "tuition hikes" rapes a bleeding-assed labeled "U of A students." Or, Viktor Yushchenko grimaces as an ass labelled "KGB" sprays "dioxin" diarrhea in his mouth, or face, or his bowl of soup. Perhaps tsunami survivors sucking on a pair of massive breasts labelled "Red Cross donations." Or maybe a figure labelled "Canadian media" sucking Lois Hole's cock, or clit, or both.

I think the cartoon with the robots was tasteless and to defend it as social commentary is ridiculous. I would prefer it if future issues of the Gateway are free of nudity.

THEO COLE
Engineering II

Letters to the editor should be dropped off at room 3-04 of the Students' Union Building, or e-mailed to opinion@gateway.ualberta.ca.

The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libelous, or otherwise hateful in nature.

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the name, student identification number, program, and year of study of the author; to be considered for publication. Anonymous letters will not be considered.

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The Lord is my appetizer, I shall not want

Watch what you eat—it just might be worth thousands to devout Christians



DERRICK GREENKSI

That Christ, he sure gets around. He's in the dirt of a bus shelter window, and in the clouds high above a crisp winter morn. With enough strong medication, you too can catch a glimpse of old JC just about anywhere.

Elvis, despite his relatively impressive posthumous lifestyle, can't hold a candle to the number one Son in terms of raw diversity. Yet.

If you're like me—and that's between you and your psychiatrist—you lie awake at night trying to figure out how to wring some capitalist joy from the fact that some people really, really want to see the face of Christ in inanimate objects. The problem is that only, what, one in five potato chips bears enough of a resemblance to the Son of God to be worth selling on eBay? And who has the time in this crazy world to examine every bite of every meal?

A wily entrepreneur, that's who. Last November, a Florida woman sold a grilled cheese sandwich bearing an image of the Virgin Mary for \$28 000, and just this week a Swiss bar owner happened upon an oyster shell with a googly-eyed impression of The Man himself, which he plans to sell before it starts to, you know, stink. The surprised expression of Christ on the oyster shell is almost

certainly in response to the price this item will fetch. And here I am working for my money like some kind of idiot.

See, what these people have, and what the rest of us lack, is vigilance. As I stroll about the campus searching for things in which to find fault, I see countless examples of supposedly impoverished students blindly devouring what may contain any number of religious visages. You may be committing just such a crime this second! I'll bet that you can't remember the last time you actually looked at what you were eating, can you? Can you?

As I stroll about the campus searching for things in which to find fault, I see countless examples of supposedly impoverished students blindly devouring what may contain any number of religious visages.

Even if your meal doesn't contain an image of the most famous Nazarene family, it may still resemble some second-tier historical figure, like Napoleon or Mr Peanut. While you probably won't retire early in that case, even if it only fetches, say, five grand, that's still enough to pay for

roughly 20 minutes of your university education, not including books. Yet there you sit, blindly chewing away at your financial freedom. For shame!

Oh sure, many of those who have discovered these religious cash-cows eat like it's some kind of miraculous serendipity, but that's just to throw everyone else off the trail. Our Swiss friend, for example, claims that the Christ oyster stuck to his hand as he opened a crate of seafood, "Like He was calling me."

What was more likely calling his name was the chance to levy a serious financial molestation upon a willing victim while the rest of us wish that we could be lucky enough to wade through a few hundred pounds of seafood. Many of the items featuring religious imagery require all kinds of squinting and other visual gymnastics to make any sense at all, which suggests to me that it has more to do with a bucket full of oysters and a magnifying glass than it does with any spiritual phenomenon to speak of. But that's not what they want you to know.

So, if you take anything from this article, let it be this: your next meal could also be your ticket to a free education. If it can happen in Florida, an area notorious for its collective intelligence, forward thinking and lack of gullibility, it can sure as hell happen in our little neck of the woods; all you really have to do is start paying attention.

Frankly, if I see even one student staring at his meal like some kind of psycho because of what I wrote here, my work will be done.

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It's time for the Alberta government to admit it has a gambling problem



GRAHAM
LEITNER

A casino is the most disgusting entertainment invention humankind has yet concocted. It sees no daylight and its plants are fake; lights pulsate with the elegance of thousands of monocoulored Lite Bites; gushing as continuously as the artificial fountain at the entrance is the river of alcohol and smorgasbord of food freely given to any patron eager to buy more chips in a losing game of blackjack. Intrinsic hopelessness courses throughout the rows of slot jockeys, since the odds of coming away a winner are more lopsided than those of beating the Pandas hockey team.

Most revolting, though, is the monolithic Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission headquarters, sheltered far away in the quiet forest glades of suburban St Albert. It is from here that the Alberta government has dictated the growth of the gambling industry and established hegemony as wickedly twisted as any previously proposed by Mr George Orwell.

It is from here that the two-pronged provincial gambling strategy is carried out: profiteering off the backs of those least able to afford (or accept) loss, and meanwhile ensuring cultural, sporting and social groups of all demographics in a web of tainted money. While clinically addicted

"The Alberta government has crafted a process of extracting huge sums of money from its own people, skimming its own sizeable cut, and keeping its detractors at bay by possessing an iron grip on their purse strings. The government takes much from addicts and feeds less to addicted groups."

gamblers spend first only half, then later all, of their weekly paycheck in exchange for misery, the government's reaper silently swaths a hand-some profit. And simultaneously, as under-funded high-school marching bands and small-town swim clubs plead for money, the government doles out heaps of largesse with the only catch being that parents must be frogmarched to the confines of the casino counting rooms during the wretched hours of the night.

The Alberta government has crafted a process of extracting huge sums of money from its own people, skimming its own sizeable cut, and keeping its detractors at bay by possessing an iron grip on their purse strings. The government takes much from addicts and feeds less to addicted groups.

And no one can escape. Without regular government funding, many after-school clubs would fold if not for annual casino revenue. And as soon as parents concede defeat by obediently taking a seat at the casino counting table, their vocal cords are cut and their protests silenced. One cannot gratefully gulp down the scraps that fall from the table and still demand a seat of one's own.

So the cycle continues to spin and no one has the guts to remove him

or herself from this malicious merry-go-round of funding. But some still try, and when they do their cries are muffled by those more than eager to snap up the vacant spot at the trough. Even as one group resolutely says no and turns away, hundreds more claw forward desperately, expertly conditioned by their government to salivate at the sight of so much cash.

So we never hear a dissenting whimper, much less a voice. All the while, the Albertan government continues to refine its remarkable capacity for doublethink. They will not accept that, for as many people who have been funded, an equal number have been left stripped of funds. Gambling has not been detrimental, they say. Families have not lost loved ones to the craps table, paycheques have not been swallowed whole and teenage Albertans have not found themselves unable to resist the draw of the quick buck to be made from a barroom VLT.

The first step to recovery in any program bent on breaking an addiction is to honestly confront the truth. Therefore, the first resolution I want to hear carried out in 2005 is this: "Hi. We're the Alberta Progressive Conservatives, and we have a gambling problem."

GATEWAY OPINION

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STUDENTS' UNION PAGE 01.20.2005

On Friday, January 14th, the Board of Governors raised tuition by 5.75%. For an average full-time student this means an increase of \$260.89 for the 2005-2006 school year.

This is the 24th consecutive increase imposed on students by the Board of Governors.

In less than a decade, tuition has doubled.

The SU will continue to lobby the Alberta Government to increase funding to the University of Alberta to ensure that future tuition increases can be avoided.

The SU would like to thank the many volunteers who helped in the campaign. In particular we would like to thank Luis Lopez, Kitchen's Passport, Dr. Kevin Taft – Leader of the Alberta Liberal Party and Dr. Raj Pannu – MLA for Edmonton-Strathcona for their support and great contributions to the campaign.

Congratulations to Carolyn Breakey on winning the "What Would I Do Without" contest for foregoing 22.6 hours of study time to work so that she can pay for the additional \$261 in tuition.

ACT NOW!

The SU has begun a petition campaign calling on the provincial government to increase funding for post-secondary education. These petitions are located at the Center for Student Development, the Student Financial Aid Center, and the SU Info Desks around campus.

YOUR 2004/2005 SU EXECUTIVE

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492.4236

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GATEWAY OPINION The "fun" hasn't stopped since 1910

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Only science can give us the real truth



TIM
PEPPIN

The other day I heard a woman talking to a group of people around her about the failures of science and the need to accept "other ways of knowing" as legitimate sources of truth. I was bothered not so much by the fact that she was saying it—lunacy and ignorance abound, after all, often densely concentrated in individuals—but because others around her were nodding their heads in agreement. I wondered to myself what these people—indeed what most people—understand of science, and what precisely was meant by an "other way of knowing." The likely answer to both questions was very little.

I say this not out of arrogance, but because science is the only meaningful and reliable method of determining what is true that has or will ever exist.

To understand this, it must first be understood that science is nothing more than a means of organizing observations and drawing logical conclusions based upon them. It must also be understood and accepted that without having observed or experienced a

phenomenon in some way, it is meaningless to claim that it exists.

As David Hume famously concluded in his *Inquiry Concerning Human Understanding*, all knowledge and all reason are based upon experience and induction. It follows then that nothing can be known without first being observed or experienced, and that that which we say is true is merely that which most closely coincides with our observations. Anything that runs contrary to observations, then, has no right to the title of truth.

Therefore, by its very definition, any idea or belief which is supported by science is supported by observation and experience—themselves the only justifiable criteria for determining truth. These are points that should be understood by everyone. They should forever colour our thoughts and influence our actions. No one should accept propositions that are not grounded in fact and experience, yet the vast majority of people do exactly that. Why is this so?

The answer is that most people think their own beliefs are, in fact, supported by fact and experience. I suspect that what the advocate of "other ways of knowing" really meant was that she had knowledge rooted in experience which was dismissed by the men and women of science, and that therefore science itself was a failure, as it did not really recognize the truth.

Had her quarrel been with the scientific establishment, with scientists' individual failings and experimental inadequacies, her thoughts might have merited some consideration. But by naively flailing against science itself, she exposed herself as a

feeble and imprecise thinker, bitter that the scientific community had passed judgment on some issue or idea important to her.

It is for this reason that such people advocate "other ways of knowing." Lacking a skeptical disposition, they will be unduly swayed by situations or experiences which would not survive the rigour of scientific scrutiny. Over time, they will develop a deep emotional attachment to the conclusions that are drawn from their faulty experiences.

Thus, when they learn that experiments, studies, or scientists have denied the validity of their experiences and the lifestyles drawn from them, they become understandably resentful and conclude—wrongly—that science itself must be based upon faulty principles. In an effort to justify their beliefs, they will then begin to attach great significance to meaningless or banal phenomena. Dreams, premonitions, voices, omens, prophecies, palm reading, astrology: these are the children of the scientifically disenfranchised. These are all "other ways of knowing," and fly blithely in the face of our collected observations. They have nothing to support them but the desire to do so.

Does it follow then that whatever scientists claim is true must be so, or that science can divine all the answers of life? Emphatically, no. Scientists are human, experiments may be faulty and imprecise, and some very meaningful questions do not lend themselves to scientific inquiry. Yet for any question that has observable phenomena as a component, science is the only place—the only way—to seek an answer.

It cannot be otherwise.

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Concrete results are what make tsunami charities more popular with donors



ADAM
GAUMONT

The now-infamous capital-T Tsunami that hit Southeast Asia on Boxing Day has precipitated an unprecedented amount of support from around the globe, with over \$4 billion pledged to date, and more likely on the way. However, in addition to proving that human compassion and selflessness still have a pulse today, such generosity has also provoked a fair amount of jealousy among the many other charities, aid groups, and humanitarian organizations around the world.

Whether it's civil war, genocide, AIDS or famine epidemics in various parts of Africa, or just plain old homelessness, poverty, and other social problems that we pretend don't exist back here in North America, hundreds of charities and organizations are scratching their heads right now, wondering what it is they have to do to receive the same amount of attention for their causes.

However, there are several ways to explain, and perhaps even justify, such disparity. First of all, the bad ones: namely, that the tsunami occurred right at Christmas time, which, as all charities know, is the time of year when people are most likely to part with their hard-earned cash. Also, the media coverage, thanks to both the sheer magnitude and apolitical nature of this natural disaster, has approached the high-water mark for coverage of comparable events—though this is admittedly difficult, if not impossible, to measure with any degree of certitude.

But there are also more convincing reasons for this surprisingly and reassuringly high outpouring of generosity. First of all, thanks to the advanced age of technology and communication in which we live, the nature of disas-



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: LEANNE BROWN
FLOOD OF CASH High-profile causes will always beat out everyday needs.

ter relief and fundraising has changed significantly. It started with newspapers letting readers know what they could do to help; this trend soon caught on, and snowballed so quickly that within days nearly every website, TV station, radio station and store was offering its patrons a way of contributing.

This technique proved to be incredibly effective, as it makes it more convenient for people to donate—for, sadly enough, "not getting around to it" is one of the most common excuses people make. More specifically, it singles people out: it gets in their face and says, "Hey you. Yes you, not that guy over there, not the lady beside you, *you*: would you like to contribute to this cause?" And as annoying a technique as this may be, it simply underscores what philosophers—and telemarketers—have known for a long time: most people are willing and able, but simply do not have a sense of individual responsibility. In other words, they need to be prodded, they need to be confronted directly, they need to be called upon as individuals and not as

members of a large crowd.

Furthermore, although there are many other equally needy and deserving causes in the world today, the reality is that people like to see results from their investments. For as noble as it may be, donating money for AIDS research hasn't translated into a cure as of yet, and simply throwing money at a civil war isn't going to stop any bullets from flying. It will, of course, help those who have been wounded or sick because of said epidemics and wars, but such causes are and will remain essentially off the radar map of financial support that they are ongoing, complicated, and have no end in sight.

"Throwing money" at the tsunami relief effort, on the other hand, will produce concrete results relatively quickly. People know that lives will be saved, houses will be built and cities will be reconstructed with that money. The pieces will be picked up and put back together, though hearts may never be mended. And that, for better or worse, is all that most of us expect to see.

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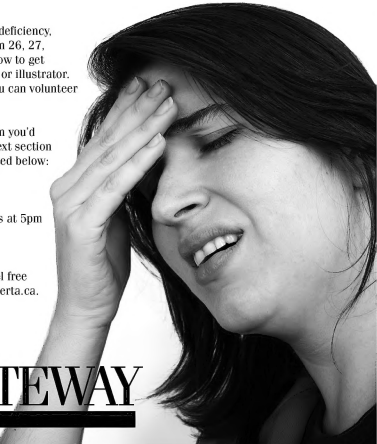
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Over-sensitivity is making it pretty goddamn tough to live in Canada



JOSH
K JENNER

I hate shoveling my sidewalk. Whether my roomies agree with me on that issue or are just a bunch of lazy pieces of shit, I'm not sure—either way, our walk seldom gets shoveled.

When I say seldom, I mean about once a year, when the tickets or ticket threats start coming. Other than that, no way. In fact, right now our walk is at the point where one would have to take an approximately six-inch step from either neighbour's concrete-exposed perfection to have the privilege of standing on The Josh's sidewalk.

I'll be the first to agree that, like me, this is both ugly and slothful. But the good people at City Hall and Canada Post have come to the conclusion that this is also dangerous, and now I can get a ticket for it.

This threat of a ticket is not based on logic or research or anything like that; it's predicated upon a crippling fear, likely of being sued. The packed snow that makes up our front walk is about as slick as my lonely, late-night-party-line-commercial-watching ass, but that's irrelevant—at some point in history, some asshole has successfully sued a homeowner on the basis that said suer doesn't know how to goddamn walk, and now the rest of us are fucked.

This is why I had to sign a waiver to go roller skating the other night, and why the insurance I've taken out on my ass has doubled in cost, and why frigging Crum Dunk is probably thinking about forming a risk management department. It's ridiculous.

Also, it seems that if one has lived his or her

life and successfully avoided getting sued, he or she has likely pissed someone off in the process. Pretty much every action that would have been viewed as mildly controversial ten years ago will now cause some random, marginalized group to react in "outrage."

Take, for instance, the issues that arose when Conan O'Brien had a few shows in Canada and Triumph the Insult Dog called the Québécois "dull and obnoxious." Legions of people across Québec and Canada alike reacted as if O'Brien had sodomized Lucien Bouchard on Saint Jean Baptiste Day and wiped himself off with the Fleur-de-Lys. And for what? An insult that wouldn't elicit a response at a Mormon Jesus-fish convention. Political correctness has become so overblown in Canada that we are starting to lose sight of reasonability.

Although it seems by the randomness of this article that I likely substituted a Vicaden/Wild Turkey colada for my porridge this morning, I'm actually driving towards something here: Canada, because of these trends, is becoming increasingly difficult to exist in. More and more, we barely live; we basically just eat, breathe, shit, sleep and occasionally masturbate while trying to avoid getting sued or hurting someone's feelings.

This drives me crazy. I want to go back to the '80s, when it was still okay to paddle high-school freshman without getting the fuzz on your tail, or make a joke about an Italian, or wear cut-off jean shorts without making babies cry. I'm so sick of signing waivers and paying insurance and tiptoeing around people who don't share my exact sex/ethnic/physical ability/sexual orientation/hair colour/blood type composition that I could seriously just pack up and move to Armenia.

In fact, I just might do that. Frankly, the world deserves to see my thighs covered only with six inches of frayed denim and a thin coat of sweat.

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LEWIS LAPHAM
HARPER'S MAGAZINE editor
21 January 2005



THE GATEWAY



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PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: MATT FREIBER

SHOUT OUT OUT OUT Wipe off that blank expression and show the world what you're feeling.

You know, a little emotion isn't such a bad thing

KIRK
ZEMBAL

What the world needs now is love, sweet love, or at the very least, some emotional response of any kind. Walking around campus and looking at all the faces is like looking at a brochure for the Annual Sedative Convention; there's not a whole lot there. Oh, you might hear a few laughs from arts students finally realizing the cruel joke life has played on them, or if you've gotten lost and unfortunately found yourself in an engineering building, you might catch one of us squealing like a stuck pig because we finally understand that math problem that has plagued our nightmares for weeks.

But mostly, we hide under a veil of fake smiles and banal chatter. Seriously, how often during a given day does a normal person actually say what's on

their mind, how they feel, or what they actually think of a person? Not often, and I can prove it, because if people actually told me what they thought of me, I'd probably be crying right now.

We've been taught over the years that we've got to be calm and collected to be successful in this world, but if we're suppressing our emotions, we're not getting much out of life. As somebody wise may or may not have said, to deny our emotions is to deny that which makes us human. I'm pretty sure I heard it on an episode of *Star Trek: The Next Generation*, so it may as well have been spoken by Plato or George W. themselves—to me, it's gospel.

But to get back to the point, there are only two situations where it is acceptable for people to show emotion in public nowadays: when you're playing sports or when you're being drunk. In sports you can spit, swear and call someone's sexual history, parentage, or any combination of the two into question. And when people get drunk, their primal instincts come to the fore-front and they act like Klingons who've switched their Ritalin for badly cooked

crystal meth. At this point they end up doing stuff that any University discipline officer will tell you is "unbecoming of a student at this institution" and "will get you sent straight to hell." But the only reason we act like total jackasses when we drink is that we feel an innate need to let loose and actually express ourselves, but since we can't in normal social situations, we're driven to the bottle. Or at least that's what we tell ourselves.

So in order to prevent alcoholism in today's youth, I implore the student population to get everything out of their systems immediately. Go scream, dance, laugh hysterically, cry, tell that guy you "dig that junk in his trunk," and most importantly, go tell that guy wearing shorts in -40C weather to go back to the Yukon, because you know you really want to. You'll feel better having done it, and people may get to know the real you, not just the person you hide behind. Of course, this whole highly emotive philosophy doesn't apply to me, because as my mother will readily attest to, I'm dead inside.

Surprise—there's no WMDs

SCOTT C.
BOURGEOIS

ons of mass destruction.

Okay, that's four words if you include "of," but it's four words everyone with an interest in the war—and many without an interest in the war—have heard.

Allegedly, Saddam was buying up the tools necessary to construct a functional nuclear device. Colin Powell, who at the time was credible, also pointed out that our friendly neighborhood Iraqi dictator had many tons of something called sarin. Apparently an illegal chemical weapon, Iraq might use sarin on civilians, Powell said, boldfaced, to the United Nations. He had charts, and maps, and all sorts of fancy special effects to back up these claims. He also had a vial of sarin right there, in the United Nations General Assembly, highly dangerous if exposed to air. He got his sample from the United States' ample supply of the chemical.

So the verdict is officially in. Not finally in—we already knew what the outcome would be months ago—but officially nonetheless; there are no weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. Sadly, this mildly important piece of information was overshadowed by news that Dan Rather was wrong to air a report about Dubya's National Guard service, but we should take a moment to reflect on what it all means.

Firstly, Operation Iraqi Freedom was not initiated to depose Saddam Hussein. That was an excuse that was fronted well after the fact to help justify the war to an impatient electorate. Secondly, the US didn't invade over Saddam's alleged ties to Al-Qaeda. Their all-knowing CIA was pretty certain that no actual ties existed, even if that myth still persists amongst Americans even today.

What the United States went to war over was the potential threat of Saddam Hussein. Not the imminent threat, mind you—Saddam was unable to so much as sneeze without the United Nations calling foul on him—but the fact that he was possibly going to become a threat sometime in the future.

This already flimsy reason to invade the sovereign space of another people and force values and opinions on them—much as I'm trying to do right now—was given some shred of credibility with three words that have been beaten to death by the media: weap-

Also, apparently, he lied, seeing as the American weapon inspectors haven't found any of this sarin, or any other WMD stockpiles, despite conquering the nation of Iraq and wrecking up the place like bad house guests. So apparently the Bush administration really got egg on their faces this time. Or at least they caught some egg white as it ricocheted off Dan Rather's face, but we'll take our little victories where we can.

So, when all is said and done—finally, officially done—it really looks as though the United States had no reason to invade Iraq at all. They've wasted billions of dollars on their defense when—surprise—they didn't need to spend a cent. I guess it's a lucky thing that the United States unexpectedly discovered all this oil underneath Iraq, or the whole thing might have been a complete waste.

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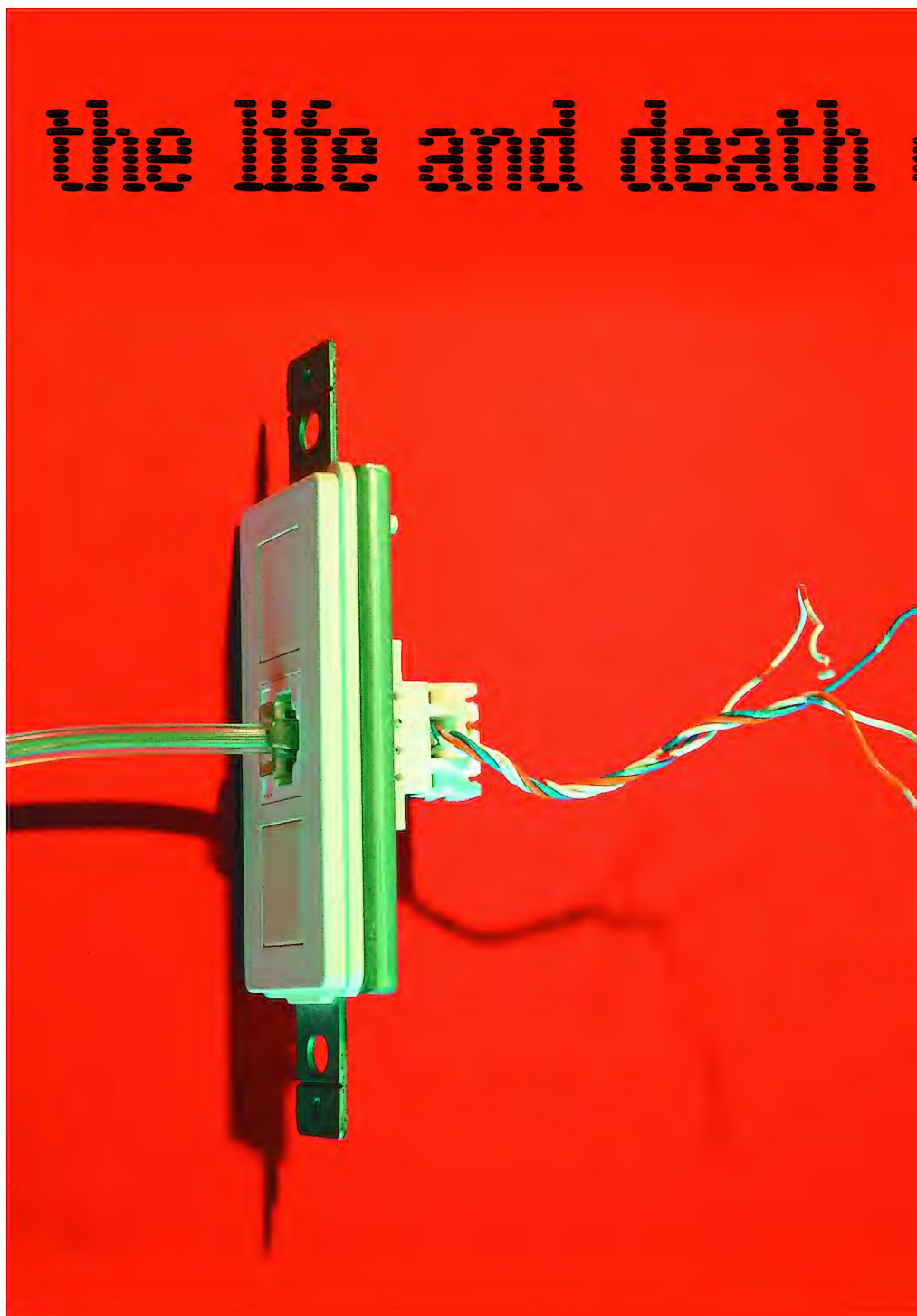
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the modem pool

Feature by Daniel Kaszor
Photo by Michael Lewcio

This month, the U of A modem pool—which provided free Web access for students and staff since the earliest days of the modern Internet—became a paid service. It wasn't always this way, however. Originally, the modem pool wasn't for students, and wasn't even for accessing the Internet.

Kevin Moodie, Computing and Network Services (CNS) distributed communications and technology support director—who is currently in charge of the modem pool—shines some light on the subject. "The modem pool was initially designed to provide connectivity for users outside the University to the University," he explains. "It wasn't designed for students."

In fact, probably the most interesting thing about the modem pool is the way it continually evolved to fit the needs of students and the changing way the average person interacted with computer networks.

In 1991, when the pool was in its infancy, there were few base users who even connected their computer to a network, let alone to the rest of the world via the Internet. Internet access was costly, and a browser that could show images a luxury. People didn't use instant messaging, instead of message boards they had the Usenet bulletin-board system, and e-mail was a rare technology.

It was in this environment that the University developed its first modem pool. It's crude by today's standards, but it was extremely high-tech back then. Initially, it existed mostly because technicians needed to be able to access the campus from remote locations to do tech work.

The pool quickly began to expand, as students and staff started using it for more than just tech work. The Internet that was merely text-based listings and obscure technical games for geeks a few years earlier was becoming a central part of the average student's everyday life. Yahoo grew from some guy's bookmark page into a huge public offering, profs started including their e-mail addresses on their syllabi, and online communities began to pop up. As such, the pool was getting used for far more than just long-distance tech support: it was becoming a way for U of A students to access the world.

As a result, the pool needed to be expanded, and it was several times, increasing the speed of the modems and opening more slots. Still, people often needed to dial in numerous times to get a line, sometimes having to wait for hours to get through. As a result, a new system was added in 1996 to automatically disconnect a person if they had been on for two hours and the system was full. This allowed more lines to open up and more people to cycle through the system.

At this point, the pool was split into two: one side for express users, and another for people who needed more time, according to Network Operations team leader Kevin Watts, who has been around since the inception of the pool. The express side would kick people off in ten minutes regardless of whether it was full or not as a way to provide an always-free network of computers for people who just wanted to check their e-mail.

This was the era when the modem pool was at its peak performance. Hundreds of people would be using the system simultaneously, and hundreds more would be waiting as their computers relentlessly redialed the system trying to procure an open spot. Use of the pool peaked in 2001.

One statistic that surprised me was that there were half a million busies a day at one point," Watt says. In other words, there were over 500 000 failed access attempts on the pool through auto-dialing. The system was being pushed to its maximum.

The pool was getting used for far more than just long-distance tech support: it was becoming a way for U of A students to access the world.

In fact, the volume of users got to be so high that there was a second system set up through a subsidized contract with Telus for \$10 a month per account. There was a guarantee of twelve modems for every customer. That meant immediate access was essentially guaranteed.

After 2002, however, the pool began its slow decline. Over the next few years, high-speed Internet connections—which were originally quite expensive—started going down in price. People became less enamoured with the system in place, as faster speeds were becoming a necessity for the average student's lifestyle.

As the amount of people using the system dwindled, the need for it dwindled as well. Over this past year, use of the modem pool got to the point where the University decided that it couldn't justify spending money on the system anymore. Staff access to the pool was recently rescinded. For students, a pay scheme is currently being brought into effect. To access the pool from now until September is \$50. From then on there will be a charge of \$75 a year. This setup will only stay in place if CNS can get enough subscribers to keep the pool around, however.

"The payment is purely cost recovery," explains Moodie. "It will cost \$75 a year and we need at least 1000 subscriptions to make the system feasible. It doesn't take a math major to figure out how much it costs to run. If we aren't able to get the subscribers we need, we will consult with the Students' Union about what to do next."

Even if the system is renewed, Watt doesn't see dial-up Internet lasting very far into the future. "Three years from now no one will be using dial-up. Its time is past," he says. And he may be right. After all, the price for high-speed Internet is consistently decreasing while the role the Internet plays in each student's life continually increases.

The University doesn't have any plans to provide high-speed service similar to that of the old modem pool. "Students have lots of options and can get access through Shaw or Telus now," explains Moodie.

It makes sense that the University won't be providing free high-speed access. After all, the infrastructure necessary to run such access is completely different from that needed for dial-up, and the free access provided by the modem pool was almost a mistake to begin with. It was a system that was created in a different era of computing, when only a small percentage of students even owned a computer, let alone accessed the larger world with one.

The evolution of the modem pool from a tool for researchers and geeks to something that thousands of students used as a focal part of their lives was unexpected, but the biggest surprise is that it didn't become a paid service sooner.

SPORTS

calgary.heraldafter.com • Thursday, 20 January, 2005

The end of an era



Over the last five seasons, head coach Howie Draper and the Pandas hockey team have developed a dynasty that at times has seemed unbeatable. But as they prepare to lose eight key players after this year, a chapter is about to close on one of the most dominant teams in CIS history.

FILE PHOTO: JEFFREY GREENAUS

JAKE TROUGHTON
Sports Editor

Thanks to the glory days of the Oilers and Eskimos in the 1980s, sports fans in Edmonton may think they know all about dynasties. But since winning their first CIS championship in 1999/2000, the Pandas hockey team has redefined the term.

The team has posted a remarkable 81-2-3 record in conference play since the beginning of that season, won four of five national championships, and are unbeaten in 93 consecutive games against CIS competition.

But as the Pandas kick off a home stretch that will span all but one weekend between now and at least the Canada West semi-finals, beginning with tomorrow and Saturday's 7pm games against the Manitoba Bisons, that dynasty—or at least an important chapter in it—is approaching its end.

The Pandas will lose eight players—a third of their roster—to graduation after this season, and the list of departures is impressive. Starting goaltender Andrea Thomas is among those moving on, as is defender Jill Chmilar, the leading scorer among Canada West blueliners. But the two biggest losses will be Delaney Collins-Pye—the versatile Canadian national team member who plays both defense and forward—and the team's captain, left winger Danielle Bourgeois.

While the team is focusing on winning their fourth-straight national championship, they are starting to get the sense that they're nearing the

end of something big.

"I wish I'd been here longer, to play more years with everyone on this team," said first-year forward Tarin Podloski. "It's sad that it's coming to an end, but hopefully it ends good."

"I've been thinking a lot about what we're going to do next year," added Pandas head coach Howie Draper, who has led the team to an overall record of 185-19-7 since its inception in 1997. "I'm really curious to see how the returning players will step up and fill some of the roles that will be vacated."

"With Danielle [Bourgeois], any time the outcome is in question, she takes it to another level. She refuses to lose; she refuses to come in second."

HOWIE DRAPER,
PANDAS HOCKEY HEAD COACH

While each of the eight departing players has been a key part of the team's success, Draper didn't hesitate to name the loss that will create the biggest vacancy.

"Danielle Bourgeois is irreplaceable," he said. "It's going to be very difficult to find a player of that calibre with the desire to match."

That statement, and the impact that Bourgeois has had on the team, is difficult to argue. The Pandas have lost only one conference game with Bourgeois on the roster, in her rookie year of 1999/2000. The following season, when she sat out for the year, marked the only time in the last five years that the Pandas didn't win the national championship. In fact, that season's conference final against the Regina Cougars marked the last time the Pandas lost a non-exhibition game, and Draper suggested that that outcome may have been different had Bourgeois been on the roster.

"I felt that we had a better team than Regina, but they got ahead, and we didn't have a player on our team at that time who'd say, 'No, that's not acceptable,'" he said. "With Danielle, any time the outcome is in question, she takes it to another level. She refuses to lose; she refuses to come in second."

That quality was evident earlier this season in Regina, when the Pandas' winning streak nearly came to an end. On 13 November, the Cougars led Alberta 3-2 with only three minutes remaining in the third period, before Bourgeois scored two quick goals to give the Pandas a 4-3 win.

But for her part, Bourgeois deflects much of the credit, and said she considers it "a privilege" to play on a team this deep and talented, and in particular with Collins-Pye.

"She's taught me a lot," she said. "It's been an honour to play with her, and last year to play on a line with her was awesome. Not many people

are going to get an opportunity like that."

Knowing that he's about to lose a huge chunk of his team's core, Draper has already started laying the groundwork for the team's future success. Podloski, for one, has already shown offensive potential: with 20 points she's the third-leading scorer in Canada West after her linemates, Bourgeois and Kristen Hagg.

"I like the fact that Tarin Podloski has worked out nicely on the Bourgeois/Hagg line, because I think we need Tarin to dominate; she has that kind of potential," said Draper. "I want her playing on that line so that some of that magic can rub off on her and she can carry it on once Danielle's gone."

Bourgeois herself seems confident that the team will survive the upcoming exodus of stars. "This team has a lot of depth this year; they'll be just fine next year," she said. "New players are going to step up, and the team's going to get new players. The cycle continues."

It's clear from the results they've had that the Pandas have assembled something special, and whatever may come beyond this season, Draper admitted that it'll be tough to see this chapter come to an end.

"At the end of the season, win or lose, it's going to be tough," he said. "We're going to lose some players who I think have grown tremendously, and I've had a great time working with them and growing alongside them. It's going to be very hard for me at the end of the year to say goodbye."

Resurgent basketball Pandas ready to face toughest test yet

Winners of five of their last six, the Pandas will host the third- and fourth-ranked teams in the country this weekend in the Main Gym

PAUL OWEN
Sports Writer

Just as the Pandas basketball squad is starting to turn their season around, they're set to run smack into the defending national champions. The fourth-ranked UBC Thunderbirds (8-4) fly into the Main Gym Sunday afternoon, two days after the third-ranked Victoria Vikes (6-6) will try to pillage a victory from the feisty and confident Pandas tomorrow night.

"Vic is sitting 6-6 right now, and to me that is a record that screams 'beatable,'" said Pandas forward Stephanie Stolk, whose 5-7 team came within three points of balancing their record at 6-6 last weekend in Calgary, after starting the season 0-6. "We could have had that record [last] weekend. We can't come out the way we did against Calgary; we have to play the way we did against Saskatchewan."

"[UBC] might come in a little complacent. Sometimes that happens when you beat a team by a lot. ... We have a better game in us than what we played against them."

PANDAS HEAD COACH TRIX BAKER, ON HER TEAM'S RECENT 85-59 LOSS TO UBC

The Pandas are coming off a pair of poor defensive performances against Calgary, allowing Tanya Hautala of the Dinosaurs to run all over them. It's a problem Alberta has been working hard to fix, since both this weekend's opponents have top-ten scorers.

"We have to do a better job defensively. We looked at some matchups on [UBC star Sheila] Townsend when we played them, and I really tried not to show all my cards when we played them," said Pandas head coach Trix Baker, who noted Kara Stevens as her best defender.

"They have key players that are going to score no matter what, and we have to try to minimize what they do and take it to the rest of their team and prevent the rest of their team from scoring."



FILE PHOTO: JEFFREY GREENAUS
TOT GAME The Pandas return home tomorrow.

Friday night in Calgary Hautala went off the hook, but the rest of the team was useless," said Stolk.

Victoria and UBC are two of the top defensive teams in the country, but the Pandas hope the home-rim advantage will work in their favour.

"Vic is a very good defensive team; they pressure a lot and try to put you in a position to make mistakes. They are very fundamentally sound. We have to use our athleticism and our speed to try to beat them down the floor and attack on the press," said Baker. "UBC are defending national champions, and even though they've lost a couple players, the core of their team is still there. ... They have some flat games, and we just need to come out and create some flatness in them."

Taking a pair of wins away from two teams ranked in the top five nationally is a daunting task for the Pandas, especially when UBC clobbered them 85-59 three weeks ago in an exhibition match. Alberta, however, is not intimidated by the left-coasters.

"[UBC] might come in a little complacent. Sometimes that happens when you beat a team by a lot. I didn't think we played well. I thought we were very flat and very unemotional and we have a better game in us than what we played against them," said Baker.

"We're not intimidated—we have no reason to be," added Stolk. "We know nothing about Vic and we've seen UBC once. I don't think we should be intimidated. We've got a bunch of young guns and they don't care. There's no history, so they're not worried about it."

Swimmers head to Lethbridge for conference championship

PAUL OWEN
Sports Writer

While most of the standing water in the Edmonton area is frozen, the Pandas and Golden Bears swim teams have been making waves in preparation for this weekend's Canada West finals in Lethbridge—the team's last chance to set qualifying times for the CIS championships that will be held here next month.

The Bears and Pandas are both young squads—only Borrey Kim and Katie Yalte are in more than their third year of eligibility—and will race against teams from two national training centres in UBC and the University of Calgary.

"It can be [intimidating]. I think it'll be a good fight because we are a small team compared to UBC and Calgary and they are really put together," said first-year Panda Elsa van Goudouwer. "I think our youth will be more of an advantage for years to come. We're thinking of this more like a training meet or a practice meet. I think it'll be a fun meet, and we want a lot more people to qualify for CIS."

The team has not been in competition since the US Open at the beginning of December, but

a rainy post-Christmas trip to Los Angeles helped keep the team in excellent shape.

"We did a lot of mileage. We were in the water for eight days and I think we did 97km. We didn't get one full day off; we swam at least once a day. It was a lot of distance and pretty serious. It was rough; I was having a tough time with it. I think overall people swam pretty well there. They were training hard and got a lot of aerobic work," said Kim.

Both Kim and van Goudouwer expect those who have yet to qualify for the CIS championships to be the stars of the meet for Alberta, while those already in next month's meet will not be in top form.

"Medalling will be tough because I haven't tapered and I'm not rested," said van Goudouwer.

"I'd like to medal, or at least [finish in the] top five," added Kim. "The meet is pretty tough in my events. UBC always has national team members, so I think that's where the main competition will come from. I think if our team could hold third place against the two national training centres in Calgary and UBC, that would be huge."

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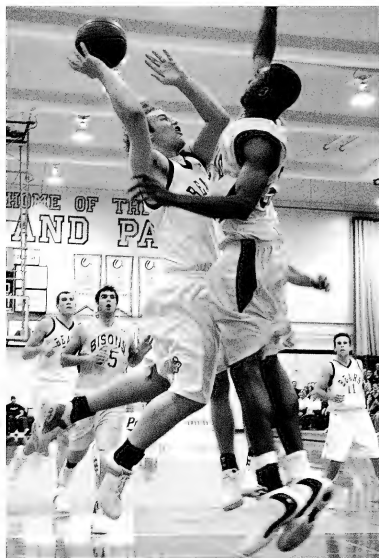
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UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA



FILE PHOTO: LEANNI FONG

BRICK WALL UBC and Victoria are the next obstacles in the Bears' path.

Basketball Bears aim to bounce back at home

The two top-ranked teams in Canada West are set to visit the Main Gym

CHRIS O'LEARY
Sports Writer

With a few days passed since being swept at the archaic claws of the Calgary Dinosaurs, the Golden Bears basketball team thinks they've learned a lesson and are ready to move on—almost.

"I'm frustrated. I still feel bad about those games," said Bears guard Mike Melnychuk, who seems to have brought the intensity he had in Saturday's loss in Calgary back to Edmonton with him. The fifth-year guard has reason to be frustrated, but acknowledges that it may take a little more time for the recently reunited Bears lineup to be able to win consistently.

"We haven't really played with this full unit for a while, so there is still some getting used to," he said. "Our expectations are higher than what we've prepared for right now."

After suffering the two losses to Calgary, Melnychuk said the Bears are still in a position to win.

"We're still not beat," he said. "We feel like we're such a good team. We feel like a contender for a national

championship, and I think we are. I was on a team that won [a championship]. There were different elements but still, that feel was the same. I still think that if we get on a good run we definitely have a shot at it."

"We're still not beat. We feel like we're such a good team. We feel like a contender for a national championship, and I think we are."

MIKE MELNYCHUK,
GOLDEN BEARS GUARD

The Bears will look to start their win streak when they host the eighth-ranked Victoria Vikings on Friday night and the seventh-ranked UBC Thunderbirds on Sunday afternoon. Both teams will likely prove to be some of the toughest regular-season competition the Bears have faced, as

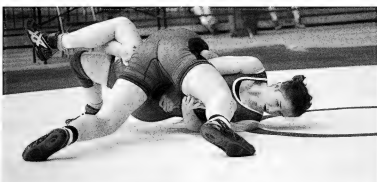
they are the two top-ranked squads in Canada West.

Victoria will expect a strong performance from guard Chris Trumpp, who leads his team with 17.6 points, six assists and five rebounds per game. UBC's top player is guard Casey Archibald, who is averaging a team-high 18.3 points per game.

While both visiting teams have great backcourts, at least on paper, they're both thin up front. With post players Phil Sudol, Scott Gordon and Richard Bates, the Bears will have a number of options under the basket that they hope will be enough to exploit their visitors' lack of size.

"We're working all week in practice on getting the ball inside," Melnychuk said. "[Head coach Don Horwood] is working plays with where the ball has to go inside before anything else happens. We've got to go inside first and create from there."

The Golden Bears will host Victoria on Friday night at 8pm. They'll then take on the Thunderbirds on Sunday afternoon at 2pm. Both games are in the Main Gym.



FILE PHOTO: JESSE WHITEHEAD

READY TO WRESTLE Alberta's annual tournaments are set for this weekend.

Alberta grapplers return home for pair of meets

ANDREW REINFREE
Sports Writer

With Christmas out of the way, Golden Bears and Pandas wrestling coach Vang Ioannides has set his sights on the remainder of the wrestling season. But his holiday wasn't all turkey and fruitcake, as his squad only had about a week off the mat during the break.

Thanks to the full schedule, which included training here in Edmonton, heading to Vancouver for a training camp and then travelling to Pacific University in Portland, Oregon, to take on some NCAA competition, Ioannides says his team is in full gear for the final stretch of the season.

"Really we're down to about a month before we have our Canada West championships," noted Ioannides. "Now it's go time, I guess you could say."

The wrestlers will compete on two weekends before the Canada West finals begin in Calgary on 18 February, starting this weekend at the Butterdome with both the University of Alberta Varsity Open, a tournament restricted to CIS-eligible wrestlers, and the Golden Bear Invitational, open to non-CIS athletes. The events will bring some of Canada's best wrestling talent to Edmonton, including three of the top squads from Ontario and all of the Canada West teams, with numerous national-calibre athletes in attendance. Ioannides

has high expectations for his team and for the competition in the Open.

"We expect to do very well in the Varsity Open," said Ioannides. "It is a CIS-wide tournament. Simon Fraser are Canada West champions and are certainly amongst the top schools in Canada all the time. They'll be in attendance, as will as the University of Calgary, the University of Regina, and the University of Saskatchewan. All of these schools are in the top five right now. Everybody is our competition, really."

The Varsity Open will mark the return of key Golden Bears wrestler Jarret Wall from injury, while fifth-year Panda Heidi Kulak, who has a perfect 19-0 record so far this season but was knocked out of the lineup by illness over the break, will be unable to compete. However, there may be some more well-known wrestling personas on the Butterdome mats this weekend.

"Daniel Igal, who was the 2000 Olympic champion in Sydney, wrestled in our tournament last year [which was announced at the last minute]. I can't promise you that he's going to wrestle in our tournament this weekend, but that's the kind of people that we've had in the past," said Ioannides.

The action will begin tomorrow at noon in the Butterdome, with Saturday's matches scheduled for the same time and location. Admission is free for all of the bouts.

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VARSITY STATS

Men's Hockey

Canada West standings

Mountain Division

Team	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	P
x-Alberta	20	17	2	1	97	39	35
Calgary	18	6	7	5	45	53	17
UBC	18	12	4	2	46	84	8
Lethbridge	20	2	17	1	51	116	5

Great Plains Division

Team	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	P
x-Saskatchewan	20	14	4	2	86	57	30
x-Manitoba	20	12	5	3	79	52	27
Regina	20	11	4	5	78	14	

x-Clinched playoff spot (top six overall qualify)

Friday

Lethbridge @ Saskatchewan 6pm
Manitoba @ Calgary 7pm
Regina @ UBC 8:30pm

Saturday

Lethbridge @ Saskatchewan 6pm
Manitoba @ Calgary 7pm
Regina @ UBC 8:30pm

CIS top ten (last week)

1. Alberta (1)	4. Lakehead (5)
2. Saskatchewan (2)	7. Moncton (6)
3. Saint Mary's (3)	8. St FX (NR)
4. Manitoba (4)	9. UOXR (8)
5. Western (7)	10. McGill (9)

Women's Hockey

Canada West standings

Team	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	P
x-Alberta	12	12	0	0	73	9	24
Regina	12	6	5	1	42	35	13
UBC	14	5	7	2	26	46	12
Lethbridge	12	3	6	3	27	41	9
Manitoba	12	4	7	1	28	42	9
Saskatchewan	14	4	9	1	31	53	9

x-Clinched playoff spot (top four qualify)

Friday

Lethbridge @ Regina 6:30pm
Manitoba @ Alberta 7pm

Saturday

Lethbridge @ Regina 6:30pm
Manitoba @ Alberta 7pm

Women's Basketball

Canada West standings

Team	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	P
Simon Fraser	12	12	0	0	885	590	24
Winnipeg	12	10	0	2	922	639	24
UBC	12	8	4	0	760	610	16
Regina	12	7	5	0	745	741	14
Manitoba	12	6	6	0	905	817	12
Saskatchewan	12	6	6	0	866	813	12
Victoria	12	6	6	0	716	702	12
Calgary	12	6	6	0	738	755	12
Alberta	12	5	7	0	801	866	10
Lethbridge	12	3	9	0	801	907	6
Trinity Western	12	1	11	0	625	837	2
Brandon	12	0	12	0	478	975	0

Schedule

Friday
UBC @ Saskatchewan 5:15pm
Regina @ Brandon 5:15pm
Victoria @ Alberta 6:30pm
Calgary @ Lethbridge 6:30pm
Manitoba @ Trinity Western 7pm
Winnipeg @ Simon Fraser 7:15pm

Saturday

Regina @ Brandon 5:15pm
Calgary @ Lethbridge 6:30pm
Winnipeg @ Trinity Western 7pm
Manitoba @ Simon Fraser 7:15pm

Sunday

UBC @ Alberta 12pm
Victoria @ Saskatchewan 12:30pm

Men's Volleyball

Canada West standings

Team	GP	W	L	T	GW	CL	P
Alberta	12	11	1	0	35	9	22
Trinity Western	12	9	3	0	31	17	18
Saskatchewan	12	7	5	0	27	19	14
UBC	12	7	5	0	27	19	14
Winnipeg	12	5	7	0	20	27	10
Manitoba	12	5	7	0	23	30	10
Calgary	12	4	8	0	14	29	8
Regina	12	0	12	0	4	36	0

Schedule

Friday
Trinity Western @ Calgary 6pm
Winnipeg @ Regina 7pm
Saskatchewan @ Manitoba 7pm
Alberta @ UBC 9pm

Saturday

Winnipeg @ Regina 5:30pm
Trinity Western @ Calgary 6pm
Saskatchewan @ Manitoba 7pm
Alberta @ UBC 9pm

Men's Basketball

Canada West standings

Central Division

Team	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	P
Calgary	12	5	4	3	947	841	16
Saskatchewan	12	7	5	0	964	948	14
Alberta	12	6	6	0	854	889	12
Lethbridge	12	4	8	0	899	957	8

Schedule

Friday
UBC @ Saskatchewan 7pm
Regina @ Brandon 7:15pm
Victoria @ Alberta 8:15pm
Calgary @ Lethbridge 8:15pm
Manitoba @ Trinity Western 9pm
Winnipeg @ Simon Fraser 9:15pm

Saturday

Manitoba @ Simon Fraser 7:15pm
Regina @ Brandon 7:15pm
Calgary @ Lethbridge 8:15pm
Winnipeg @ Trinity Western 9pm

Sunday

UBC @ Alberta 2pm
Victoria @ Saskatchewan 2:15pm

Women's Volleyball

Canada West standings

Team	GP	W	L	T	GW	CL	P
Calgary	14	14	0	0	42	12	28
UBC	12	10	2	0	31	10	20
Winnipeg	12	10	2	0	32	12	20
Alberta	14	10	4	0	35	14	20
Regina	12	6	6	0	19	20	12
TWU	12	5	7	0	23	30	10
Manitoba	12	2	10	0	10	40	4
Saskatchewan	14	1	13	0	6	41	2
Simon Fraser	14	0	14	0	4	42	0

Schedule

Friday
Simon Fraser @ Manitoba 5pm
Winnipeg @ Regina 5:30pm
Trinity Western @ UBC 7pm
Saskatchewan @ Calgary 8pm

Saturday

Simon Fraser @ Manitoba 5pm
Winnipeg @ Regina 7pm
Trinity Western @ UBC 7pm
Saskatchewan @ Calgary 8pm

CIS top ten (last week)

1. Calgary (1)	6. Laval (5)
2. Sherbrooke (2)	7. Montreal (7)
3. UBC (3)	8. York (9)
4. Alberta (4)	9. TWU (10)
5. Winnipeg (6)	10. Manitoba (NR)

SPORTS SHORTS

Men's Volleyball

The top-ranked Golden Bears (11-1) are heading to Vancouver this weekend for a pair of matches against the only team that's beaten them in conference play this season, the fourth-ranked UBC Thunderbirds (7-5). The T-Birds beat the Bears in five sets on 6 November in the second of a two-match series in Edmonton, after Bears captain Aaron Schuba was injured in the first set. Since then, though, Alberta has gone 8-0 in Canada West play and 10-0 overall. This weekend's matches are scheduled for 9pm tomorrow and Saturday.

Track and Field

The Saskatchewan Huskies, defending men's and women's Canada West champions and women's CIS champions, will host the 36th annual Sled Dog Open meet tomorrow and Saturday, with both the fourth-ranked Pandas and sixth-ranked Golden Bears in attendance.

Men's Hockey

The top-ranked Golden Bears (17-2-1) have the weekend off, but they'll be checking the out-of-town scoreboard. The Bears, who clinched a playoff spot before the Christmas break, could clinch first place in the Mountain Division this weekend if the Calgary Dinos (6-7-5) lose or get two ties in their series at home against the Manitoba Bisons (12-5-3). Those games will be played at 7pm tomorrow and Saturday.

Great Plains Division leaders the Saskatchewan Huskies (14-4-2), who are ranked second in CIS and battling to catch the Bears for first place overall in the conference, will also be in action, with two home games against the Lethbridge Pronghorns (2-17-1).

Women's Volleyball

Also idle are the fourth-ranked Pandas (10-4), who currently sit in fourth place in Canada West. The three teams they're chasing will be in action, though. The third-ranked UBC Thunderbirds (10-2) have a pair of matches at home against the ninth-ranked Trinity Western Spartans (5-7), while the fifth-ranked Winnipeg Wesmen (10-2), tied with UBC for second place in the conference, will visit the Regina Cougars (6-6). The top-ranked and undefeated Calgary Dinos (14-0), meanwhile, will host the 1-13 Saskatchewan Huskies, who are coming off of two huge straight-set losses to the Pandas last weekend, when they didn't score more than 18 points in a set.

Universiade

Brinna Robertson-More, a student at the U of A's Augustana Faculty, finished 27th in the women's 12.5km biathlon at the World University Games, currently under way in Innsbruck, Austria. Robertson-More, who turned 18 last month, normally competes in the women's youth category with distances of up to only 6km, but as the only Canadian to qualify for the 12.5km mass start in the Universiade.

Canada's men's hockey team, which this year is comprised of players from Ontario University Athletics teams, lost 6-0 to Russia yesterday afternoon, ending the team's medal hopes. Although Canada finished with a 3-2 record, including a 2-1 win over China, they finished third in their pool behind Russia and the Czech Republic, and will not advance to the medal round. They'll play Slovakia tomorrow in the fifth-place game.

Canada has won only one medal so far, a gold by snowboarder Brendan Davis of Lakehead University in the men's halfpipe.

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SOCIAL INTERCOURSE

Sum 41
with No Warning
Shaw Conference Centre
Tuesday, 25 January at 7:30pm

If you remember moshing to Sum 41's "Fat Lip" at Edgeland 2001, you'll be thrilled to learn of the band's upcoming show at the Shaw Conference Centre. Melodic yet familiarly angry, their new record, *Chuck*, displays the band's new mature sound while preserving the adolescent flavour we've all come to love. Now officially out of hibernation, Sum 41 is in the midst of a whirlwind tour and wants to rock the pants off E-Town.

2005 Edmonton Motorcycle Show
Northlands Atrium
21-23 January, 10am-5pm

If you feel the need for speed but aren't ready to drop tuition money on a new Harley-Davidson, this year's Motorcycle Show promises to fulfill your innermost desires. Showcasing a plethora of new motorcycles and ATVs, the show features over 100 companies ready to help you gear up for the fast-approaching summer. Representatives from Suzuki, BMW, and Kawasaki will be on hand to answer questions and wipe your sticky handprints from the shiny paintjobs of their awesome rides.

Law Show 2005
Horowitz Theatre
Friday, 21 January and Saturday,
22 January at 7pm

This year's Law Show promises more live entertainment and silent auctioning than you can shake a proverbial gavel at. The event, which earned the Board of Governors Award of Distinction (community category) in 2004, is put on by law students, with all proceeds from ticket sales going to charity. Rumour has it that the SU's Board of Governors representative, Roman Kotovych, will partake in a choreographed dance-off à la *Destiny's Child*.

Scoop 2005 Wrap-up Party
Les Tabernacles
with ALCB and
The Cranston Foundation
Powerplant
Saturday, 22 January at 8pm

If you live under a rock, and hey, some of us do, you might not have heard about Scoop 2005, a prestigious national student journalism conference which the Gateway has the honour of hosting. Get in on the action by attending Saturday's wrap-up party, featuring the "real, no bullshit rock and roll" stylings of Les Tabernacles. And if the bands aren't enough, packing hundreds of outspoken journalists in an enclosed space should have hilarious consequences, so don't miss out.

Colonial and Native Party
Your shitty basement suite
Sometime this weekend

If there's anything to be learned from this week's scandal of Prince Harry dressing as a Nazi, it's that the latest craze sweeping the parties of the rich and aristocratic is colonial and native parties. Apparently, Harry-boy was decked out in a Third Reich-ette to keep with the party's imperialist theme. (Brother Will went as a leopard for some reason. Meow.)

If it's too cold to venture outdoors this weekend, throw your own party, à la Britain's beautiful people; what better way to make use of that trivia you picked up in that British history or post-colonial theory class? And, you know, laugh "ironically" at centuries of suffering humanity while dressed as Benjamin Disraeli.

ASIA SZKUDLAREK & LEAH COLLINS
Outspoken Journalist & Monarchist, respectively

Come on and bring it on, Avril

Magnaeta Lane
With *The Mark Inside*
New City Ukwid Lounge
Thursday, 20 January

TYSON KABAN
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Now that Britney Spears-Federline has retreated from the music scene into white-trash land with her new husband and a bag of Cheetos, the girls of Magneta Lane are setting their sights on ousting the newest epitome of pop music: Avril Lavigne.

The band's members (first names only, please), Lexi, Nadia and French, want to distance their image and music as much as possible from their competition. Magneta Lane wants to make a solid, grown-up musical statement that won't be mistaken for immature, angst-filled wailing.

"As a band just starting out, we want to set ourselves apart from all of the people our age that are making music right now, like Britney and now Avril," says bass player French. "We're not like any of them. There's so few people for young girls to identify with and we don't identify or pretend to be anyone else. We present ourselves exactly the way that we are, which is more mature than our peers seem to be in the media. We want the adults who like teenage music to like us."

It's quite refreshing to see that the self-described "ugly socialites" of Magneta Lane have yet to succumb to the media's labels. And as they embark on their first Canadian tour to promote their EP, *The Constant Lover*, the girls couldn't be more excited.

The band formed just over a year ago in Toronto and since then, Magneta Lane has written, recorded and released a record, a feat that takes most fledgling acts years to complete.

"For us, it didn't happen too fast. But when



other people started commenting on our progress, they told us that these things aren't supposed to happen so quickly. Then it really started freaking us out," says French.

"But as everything came together, it just seemed so easy and everything was coming so naturally. Then it didn't seem too fast or too slow. It was just perfect."

The result of this perfection was *The Constant Lover*, which one reviewer agreed was "unexpectedly perfect."

"The fast pace of recording really influenced our music. We play really fast and really short songs," she says. "And the fast pace of our lives in the recent year is really reflected in our music."

The first single, the EP's title track, has resulted in a video which recently premiered on MuchMusic's *The Wedge*. Although the video

clearly reflects Magneta Lane's gritty style, they still hope that viewers don't mistake them for angry feminists.

"We want people to look at us and see a band, not a girl band. Our songs do talk about women, the roles they have in society, and how they can be strong but vulnerable at the same time," says French. "But we don't really want to make a concrete feminist statement. We just want people to concentrate on the fact that we are making music, not necessarily women making music."

But before they take the stage in Edmonton, there's one teenage pastime that even these anti-Avril ladies can't pass up.

"We're gonna go to the mall!" French says, as giggles from her bandmates erupt in the background. "I'm totally excited about the roller coaster."

Hawke worth his weight in Assault

Assault on Precinct 13
Directed by Jean-François Richet
Starring Ethan Hawke, Laurence Fishburne,
John Leguizamo, Maria Bello and Ja Rule
Opens Friday, 21 January

EDMON ROTEFA
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Watching *Assault on Precinct 13*, a remake of John Carpenter's 1976 film of the same name, is a lot like experiencing a terrifying nightmare. Mind you, this onscreen nightmare is a cinematic treat for fans of the action/thriller genre.

The terror begins with Jake Roenick (Ethan Hawke), a troubled Detroit police officer. Roenick's co-workers were killed months earlier in a botched undercover operation. Now Roenick is confined to a desk job overlooking an old police station marked for closure—Precinct

13—while coming to terms with the loss of his friends.

The action begins when Roenick is left to work the New Year's Eve night shift. Peeved to be on duty—if only because of the raging snowstorm outside—Roenick nevertheless makes the best of it, celebrating New Year's with his sexy secretary Anna (Alisha Hinds) and soon-to-be-retired cop Jasper (Brian Dennehy).

With the snowstorm creating hazardous road and poor visibility conditions, a bus of criminals—en route to a high-security penitentiary—is diverted to Precinct 13 to temporarily hold the thugs. The group of crooks consists of wise-cracking Smiley (Ja Rule), Che Guevara-like Beck (John Leguizamo), and the most notorious and feared of them all, infamous crime boss and cop-killer Marion Bishop (Laurence Fishburne).

Soon, everyone is isolated in the derelict and ill-equipped police station: phone and radio

communications are severed, the power goes out, and the station becomes surrounded by an unstoppable invading force of corrupt cops seeking to kill Bishop and everyone else who is trapped inside the station. Roenick and his law enforcement co-workers soon join forces and fight alongside the criminals in a desperate attempt to repel the invading force and flee the station.

Similar to the last movie that featured Hawke as a police officer, *Training Day*, some scenes of *Assault* look as though they were filmed on a Sony Handicam, giving them a documentary-esque feel. This effect greatly contributes to the realism of the movie, presenting the viewer with a first-person perspective on the grim and dirty reality of urban criminals and cops.

The film's realism is further enhanced by the gruesomely convincing killings throughout. Bullet-plattered heads and blood-soaked snow may make the average moviegoer unable to stomach their popcorn.

Assault, however, is not just another action movie with an endless body count. Almost every death feels significant, with an underlying human face and identity attached to the victim (as seen in the first killing involving the initial "masked" invaders).

Hawke delivers a solid performance—on par with his work in *Training Day*—as the burnt-out yet headstrong Roenick.

Fishburne is also excellent as the seemingly invincible Bishop. Yet Fishburne's dialogue is full of expressions and proverbs that make him sound more like his other film alter ego, Morpheus of the *Matrix* series.

Other supporting actors, such as Leguizamo's Beck character, complement the rest of the cast and provide comic relief.

Assault on Precinct 13 features many tense moments and a memorable and unpredictable plot. If only real nightmares could be this tight.



Men are from Mars, women are from '30s-era Hollywood

The Beard

Northern Light Theatre
Directed by Trevor Schmidt
Starring Jesse Gervais and Linda Grass
The Third Space (11516 103 Street)
Opens Friday, 21 January at 8pm

BRETT LAMBERT
Arts & Entertainment Writer

When beat poet Michael McClure's play *The Beard* premiered in 1965, the actors were arrested each night for charges of "obscenity," "conspiracy to commit a felony" and "lewd and dissolute conduct in a public place" because of the play's frank discussion and stimulations of sex.

Forty years later, Northern Light Theatre is mounting its own production of this play with a criminal record. And in these modern times it doesn't seem likely that actors Jesse Gervais and Linda Grass will suffer the same sentence as their predecessors.

"Oh, I highly doubt that would happen!" laughs director Trevor Schmidt. "Things have changed so much in terms of what's acceptable in terms of public theatre. *The Beard* is integral in changing the censorship laws about the stage. Today, I'd be shocked if anyone came in and was that surprised by the content. We're trying to let everyone know ahead of time about the language and sexual content."

Schmidt's production of *The Beard* is a story about the archetypal differences between the thought processes of men and women. But don't expect some boring rehash of *Men Are From Mars, Women Are From Venus*; the classic themes of the play are represented through a backroom brawl between legendary cowboy Billy the Kid and 1930s movie star Jean Harlow.

"Though they're called Billy the Kid and Jean Harlow, you never hear them called by name in the play," says Schmidt. "They're not supposed



to literally be these people, because they lived in different centuries, but McClure chose them because they're large cultural icons. The beat poets were really into cowboys and the American rebel. That's what Billy represents. Jean represents sophistication, glamour and an image that is put on."

And considering the obvious differences between these two American icons, it's no surprise that in the play they don't see eye to eye—especially in terms of romantic matters.

"In the most obvious sense, Billy just wants to have sex," explains Schmidt. "And Jean says, 'Tell me I'm pretty

first!' He responds, 'Why do I have to do that? Why can't we just have sex?' She wants love before giving it up. He wants to tell her afterwards. It's that kind of Catch 22 where neither wants to give into each other."

When all is said and done in this battle of the wills, does a winner emerge?

"I think they both kind of win," hints Schmidt. "One of them finally understands the other one's way of thinking and agrees to it. They both win and it ends with one huge crashing orgasm."

Now that's a climax.

Plenty of Room for improvement

Intriguing play suffers from impotent performances and an inadequate venue

The Blue Room

Directed by Stewart Burdett
Starring Amy Neufeld and John Evans
Red Strap Art Market
Playing until 20 January

TYSON KABAN
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Sex in *The Blue Room* is not just about reaching orgasm. In fact, the absence of intimate release can be just as provocative, if not more so, than ten seconds of climactic bliss.

Writer David Hare's intriguing play delves into this idea by following ten individuals, five guys and five gals, all connected by a kinked chain of sexual encounters. There's a cable, an actress, a student and even an aristocrat who explore issues of infidelity, guilt and pleasure by fucking each other.

The two actors who take on the multiple roles are Amy Neufeld and John Evans. Unfortunately, they look way too young to convincingly play jaded, oversexed adults with massive emotional baggage.

Evolutionary criticism aside, Neufeld's performance is jarring. In a venue where the tiny 40-person audience is an arm's length away from

the stage, she projects her voice as if she were in a musical production of Chicago. She portrays each woman as an erratic, bubbly mess, making it hard to distinguish between her roles as a model high on coke and an actress politician's wife. But let's not forget her most valuable asset: she has a gorgeous figure that she proudly displays in various states of undress throughout the play.

Her co-star Evans, however, turns in a fantastic, understated performance. In a play that occurs mostly within the bedroom, Evans runs with the intimate atmosphere and makes the audience sympathize with his characters. Less concerned with enunciation and more comfortable as a dramatic actor, Evans seems as comfortable with the dialogue as he is performing in front of a crowd in his underwear.

The eponymous room—the set—in which the entire play happens, is quite sparse and almost entirely blue. Three blue columns serve as closets and fridges, while the bed serves as several beds in different locations, each locale denoted by a different duvet. But the lighting is inconsistent and sometimes inappropriately pitch-black, and the sound is occasionally late on its cue and filled with ambience-killing feed-

back.

Designer Amanda Gougeon's vision might have been better brought to life in a larger venue, but she still cleverly adorns an existing window with drapes, and the natural light from the street adds a gritty touch.

The Blue Room is the first theatrical production to be held at The Red Strap Market (previously the downtown Army & Navy). As a showcase for local artists, its usual use as a venue, it's great. But the second floor needs more development and soundproofing. In several scenes, the existing concrete pillars obscured the actors, and the huge left's acoustics picked up enough street noise to distract from the play. A bunch of plastic chairs and miles of hardwood floor do not a constitute a theatre.

Inadequate venue aside, it could be that Edmonton's just not sexy enough to house Hare's controversial play. Or then again, maybe the platonic chemistry between Neufeld and Evans is what makes this production of *The Blue Room* utterly impotent. Even though the director, actors and designer make a solid effort, this production still isn't mature enough to make you consider the emotional ramifications of sex the morning after.

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They're snow happy together

Five independent Canadian folk-rockers swap successful solo careers for cold and camaraderie on a 20-show cross-country tour

A Midwinter Night's Dream
 with Kate Maki, Ryan Bishops, Nathan
 Lawr, Dale Murray and Ruth Minnikin
 Sidetrack Café
 Friday, 21 January

MICHAEL LAROCQUE
 Arts & Entertainment Writer

When most people think of a super-group, bands like The Highwaymen or The Yardbirds come to mind. But in the wake of these now-legendary collaborations of the '60s comes a modern-day indie-rock partnership, a collaborative act titled *A Midwinter Night's Dream* that showcases five rising Canadian musicians touring together to promote their respective solo albums.

"Simply put, we're independent musicians who are traveling and doing it all ourselves. Canadians have got to come out and support live Canadian music. It's kind of lacklustre sometimes, and without that kind of support it's going to fade away."

RUTH MINNIKIN,
 A MIDWINTER NIGHT'S DREAM

Featuring Kate Maki (formerly of The John Henrys), Ryan Bishops (Junction Creek), Nathan Lawr (ex-Royal City), and former Guthrie members Ruth Minnikin and Dale Murray, the group is making a 20-show sprint across Canada in just under a month. But as with any tour worth talking about, it hasn't gone down without a few problems along the way.



"Our first two shows went great, but we got snowed in at Sault Ste Marie and had to cancel a show in Thunder Bay," grumbles Maki, finally back on the road after an overnight layover. "It was okay though—we watched *Star Wars*."

While life on the road may not live up to the hype, Maki's show delivers on its promise of an eclectic showcase of surprisingly talented but largely unseen musicians. Breaking the mold of the off-seen singer/songwriter ensemble, this group of folk-rock musicians will be playing together as a five-piece band, backing each other up on five-song blitzes of their personal creations.

"We haven't really rehearsed a lot," laughs Maki. "But we stay on our toes. We did some rehearsing up north in the beginning of December. We had two days to learn 20 songs, so we set up in the living room of my parent's camp and just went at it. It was tricky, but we're awesome. We pulled it off!"


Expanding on the success she and Ruth Minnikin had touring together last year, Maki rounded up three more of her musician friends to hit the road with. Featuring a blend of "roots,

rock, folk, pop, and blues," the group is eager to share the stage. "We all solo on the side, so it's a good way to tour in support of your own music, but doing it in a nice way where you get to share the spotlight."

Having learned the ropes the first time around, Minnikin admits that planning a tour has definitely become a bit easier (spreading the workload over five people certainly cuts down the usual legwork of organizing a tour). But no matter how well organized the group is, Minnikin knows that at the end of the day the music is what gets people out to shows.

"Between the five of us we really have the music covered," assures Minnikin. "We have folk songs to the poppy end of stuff to songs that we use the accordion on, and since it's the five of us playing together, you really get a unique sound that you couldn't get without the five of us. Simply put, we're independent musicians who are traveling and doing it all ourselves. Canadians have got to come out and support live Canadian music. It's kind of lacklustre sometimes, and without that kind of support it's going to fade away."

Is it time to say goodbye to an old friend?



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Worshipping TV's false Idols

LEAH COLLINS
Arts & Entertainment Editor

There might be no talent on the TV, but there sure are plenty of talent shows.

Need reminding? Tuesday and Wednesday night saw the return of *American Idol*—now on its fourth run—the creepy/glitzy sing-off that's turned karaoke into a legitimate art form and Paula Abdul into something other than an obscure question on '80s Edition Trivial Pursuit.

This week's episodes had everything we've come to expect over the years: approximately 40 minutes worth of commercial breaks, ratings-grabbing celebrity whoring (the honorable judge Mark McGrath, anyone?), barrels of "wacky" auditions—each one vying for their God-given right to be e-mail-forward fodder for the next four days or so—and tears, always plenty of tears.

Not that you really need to watch the program to get the gist of any given episode. It's become enough of a phenomenon that it's eclipsed the bulk of other TV talent shows that have come and gone over the years, turning the airwaves into a prime-time-long going show.

Take, for example, *Idol* foremother *Popstars*. Just as much of an international do-as the *Idol* shows—or so it seemed—the *Popstars* franchise had a decent run in Canada, with three seasons on Global TV. Started by a marketing whiz/producer in Australia with the girl-group Bardot, *Popstars* spread its gospel of turning regular gals into domestically touring stars of questionable interest throughout the western world.

Nevertheless, most *Popstars*-spawned groups went on to chart top-selling singles. Canada's Sugar Jones notably racked up two hits and even a Juno nomination before calling it quits (possibly the result of band member Malik Watson leaving to sing backup for falsetto-voiced hubby Renny Shand). Whatever the case, the lasses of Sugar Jones built up enough momentum for a subsequent two seasons of Canadian *Popstars*, while the version to the south fizzled, failing to even get their single on the charts.

While season two of the Canadian version, *Popstars: Boy Meets Girl*, did admirably—and by admirably, I mean the resulting band, Velvet Empire, got a song or two on a YTV CD compilation or something—the third season,

Popstars: The One, couldn't hold up to competition from *Idol*, leaving the show an embarrassing memory by 2003.

The *One* was possibly just too similar to the winning *Idol* format to succeed. One show, however, which also appeared in 2003, tried to tweak the formula and met with success. While *Idol* and *Popstars* sought a singing sensation amongst the dreps of fame-starved humanity, *Fame* was looking for contestants who were triple threats: singers, dancers, and top-notch personalities.

The program was spawned by acclaimed choreographer/director Debbie Allen (the dance teacher from the *Fame* movie and TV series that inspired the talent show), and regrettably co-hosted by the awkwardly jolly Joy Fatone of *N'Sync*. As for the "talent," they weren't any more entertaining than Allen's sparkly costumes and stage-mother theatrics (hardly an episode went by when she didn't weep with joy over the performance of one of her stable of competing hacks), and the prize of a recording contract finally went to a bald 36-year-old with a penchant for Madonna covers.

Apart from its clearly dismal quality, *Fame* really wasn't any different from any other TV talent show—from *Making the Band* to the Ed McMahon-or-Arsenio Hall-hosted *Star Search*. They all adhere to the same apparently popular format: karaoke performance followed by audience rejection/acceptance.

Cover songs are crucial to the

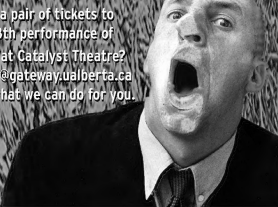
format: for whatever reason, audiences crave watching new and stupid faces doing their best to tarnish old Joe FM classics. The extent to which one show embraces the art of unoriginality deserves mention. Dick Clark Productions' *Your Big Break*, a fairly ghetto syndicated talent program hosted by Alphonso Ribeiro (*The Fresh Prince of Bel Air*), allowed regular Joe Americans to leave their blue-collar jobs and perform in the character of their favourite recording artist—usually an American "genius" such as Kenny Loggins or Gloria Gaynor—and then compete against similar schmucks.

Amazingly, the performers were often no less gifted than those on the average talent program—though usually several decades older and less prone to shop exclusively at the American equivalent of a Le Chateau outlet. But despite its poor production values and extreme camp, the show was refreshing for its honest resignation that its featured performers were just forgettable faces demanding those few fancy minutes Warhol promised them.

But where's the fun—the good television—in that? Talent shows need a big payoff, the spangly illusion that worldwide adoration is just an hour from Simon Cowell et al shilling Coca Cola and Ford trucks away. And for that, we'll keep watching—possibly *Idol* and most definitely whatever other talent show comes our way—whether the winner is Sugar Jones or a teenager from the deep South who has a problem with his adenoids.

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ADAM GAUMONT
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Following in the tradition of bands who incorporate the word "blues" into their name without really being a blues band (such as Blues Traveler), comes Calgary-based Bluesmyth. This Alberta band has managed to successfully fuse the elements of blues and rock, creating a genre that music fans could refer to as being "pretty damn good considering they're from

Calgary."

Comparisons to Blues Traveler are appropriate given the band's blues/rock fusion, and Bluesmyth's tendency to break out the "ol' harp" (that's what blues musicians call a harmonica—go figure) à la Blues Traveler's John Popper.

Parallels can also be drawn to The Kenny Wayne Shepherd Band. Bluesmyth uses similar groovy blues-based rhythms and even groovier guitar playing—though they're not quite as groovy as Kenny's, as hard as they might try.

Even Creed's influence—given the gruff, heavy vocals of Chris Yaholowski (reminiscent of Creed's Scott Stapp) and the record's unnecessarily complicated guitar riffs—can be heard.

A scant nine songs are offered on 30 Pieces of Silver, but what Bluesmyth's debut album lacks in quantity it makes up for in, well, not-too-shabbiness.

Songs like "Love for Free," "Rainbow," and "Rivers We Ride" are some of the stronger tracks on an album that is definitely worth a listen if you're a fan of the genre.



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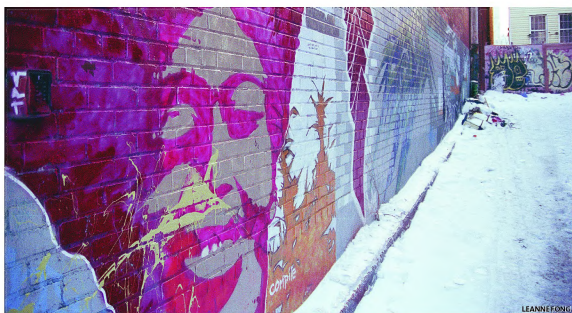
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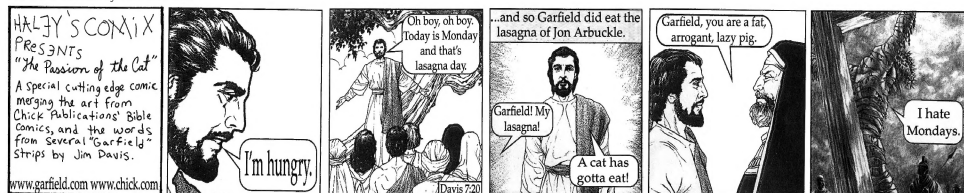
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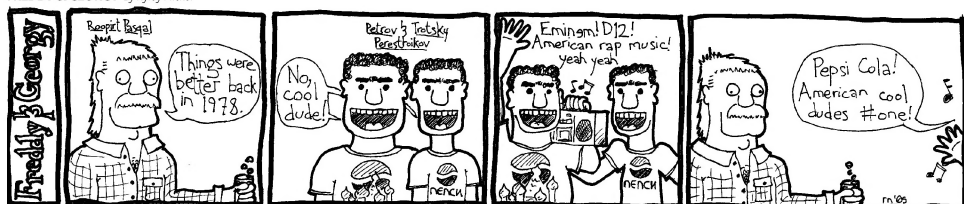
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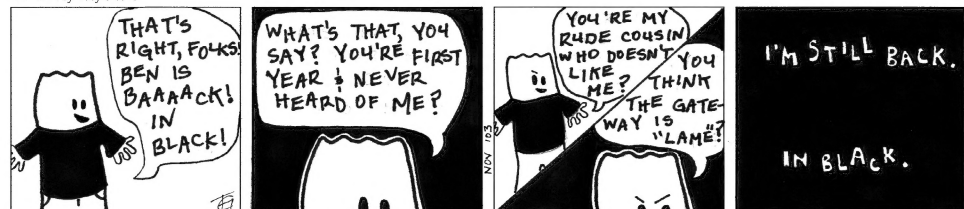
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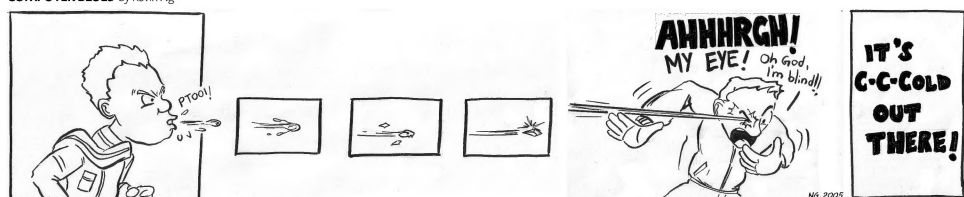
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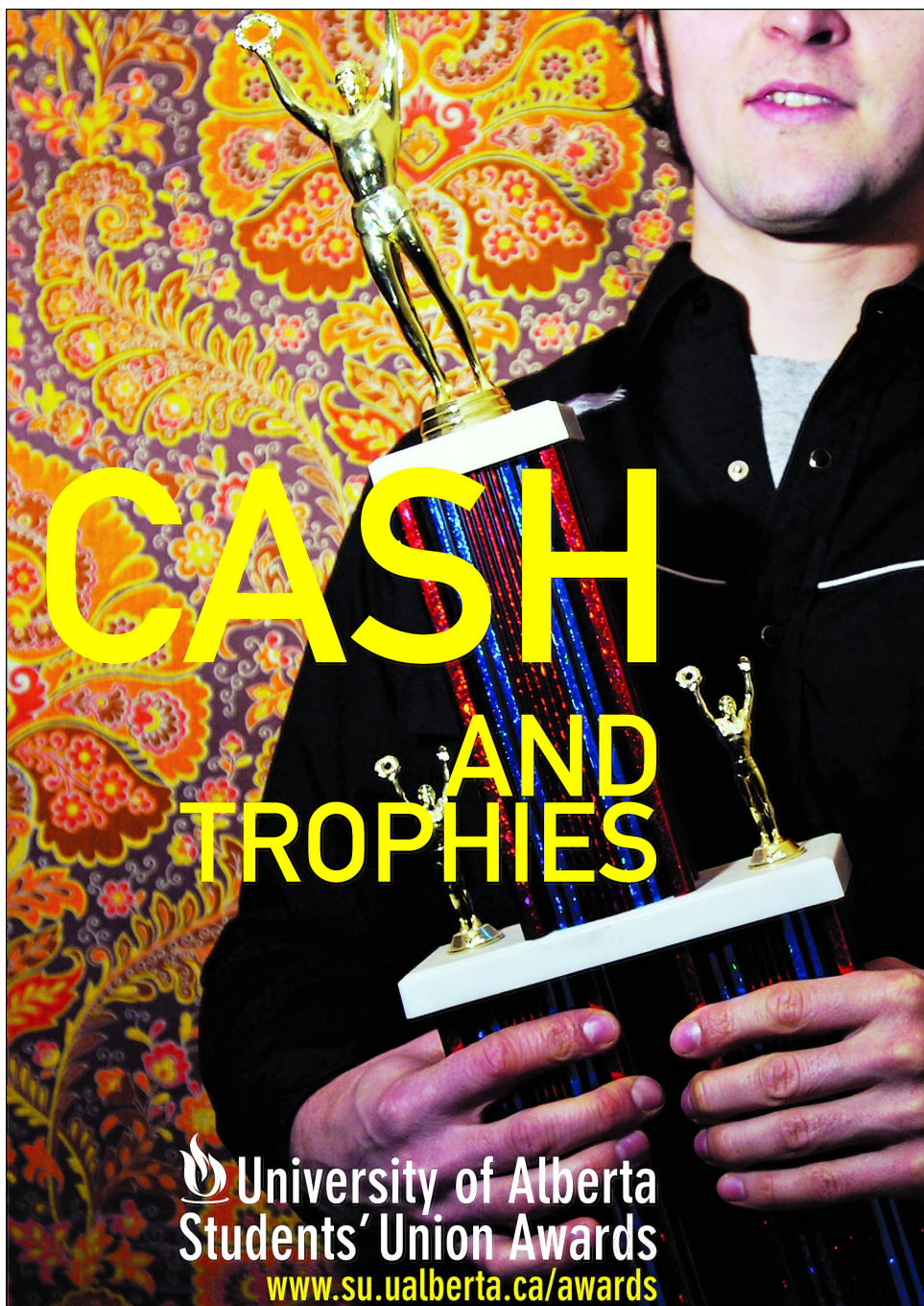


HEY BEN by Tracy Greene




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A photograph of a person from the chest up, holding a large, multi-tiered trophy. The trophy has a blue and red striped base and several gold figurines on top. The person is wearing a black button-down shirt. The background is a vibrant, colorful pattern of orange, yellow, and red floral and paisley designs on a dark purple background. The text 'CASH AND TROPHIES' is overlaid in large yellow letters. At the bottom, the University of Alberta Students' Union Awards logo and website are displayed.

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